

OIC reports financial trouble

JERUSALEM (AP) — The failure of most of the 46 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to pay contributions has jeopardized the activities of the organization, Secretary-General Shahabuddin Pirzadeh was quoted as saying Sunday. He called on member states to clear their arrears and pay contributions promptly "to ensure the financial viability of the Islamic body and its various agencies." Mr. Pirzadeh's statement, published in Jericho on Sunday, was made at the conclusion of a four-day meeting of the OIC's permanent finance committee in Amman. The committee is meeting to discuss the 1986-87 budget of the OIC, which is expected to be about \$1.4 billion, a 10 per cent increase over the 1985-86 budget. The OIC's proposed 1986-87 budget is about two per cent higher than the previous year, but some \$1 million less than in 1985-86. OIC agencies said only three states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Pakistan — have paid their annual contributions so far this year. After the finance committee's opening session, Mr. Pirzadeh flew to Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders on the chances of a fresh peace bid to end the six-year-old Gulf war with Iraq when the pan-Islamic summit conference convenes in Kuwait Jan. 26.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Assad meets Tawheed leader

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Sunday received fundamentalist leader Sheikh Saeed Sha'ban, head of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed), the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported. It said their talks focused on the situation in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli, scene of street fighting last week between Syrian troops and Tawheed militants. SANA quoted Sheikh Sha'ban as "denouncing and condemning the abortive attempt launched by a group with suspicious contacts to disturb the security of Tripoli." Syrian troops on Friday seized Sheikh Hashem Mingara, one of the Tawheed leaders, after a three-day search of villages north of Tripoli for Sunni Muslim militants suspected of taking part in the fighting. The agency quoted Mr. Assad as saying that Syria "is keen and resolved to continue to work for the maintenance of peace in Tripoli for the welfare of all its residents, now and in the future."

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Tamir to discuss 'peace efforts'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli foreign ministry official Avraham Tamir was to travel to Egypt on Sunday to discuss the search for Middle East peace, ministry officials said. Israel Radio said earlier Mr. Tamir's two-day visit was aimed at bringing specific proposals for the creation of a preparatory committee for a Middle East peace conference. But foreign ministry officials said there was nothing dramatic about the visit and declined to go into details about the trip.

U.S. to build radar in Greenland

NEW YORK (R) — The United States plans to proceed with construction of two radar installations in Greenland and British despite opposition from the Soviet Union and some U.S. experts, the New York Times reported Sunday. Moscow has repeated an offer to decommission a high-power radar facility being built at Abalakovo, near Krasnoyarsk in central Siberia, if the United States scraps its plans. Some U.S. arms-control experts agree with the Soviet view that the U.S. radar installations would violate the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty.

Algeria calls for \$28 oil price

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's energy minister said in a newspaper interview that OPEC should aim at a crude oil price of \$28 a barrel as its current goal of \$18 was "barely acceptable." He said the "barely acceptable" price was also quoted in the latest edition of the official weekly Revolution Africaine as saying the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should be revamped to make it less "passive."

Floods cause \$1.5b damage in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Floods that swept large areas of southern and central Iran since late last month have caused 120 billion rials (\$1.5 billion) worth of damage, Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi told parliament Sunday. He said 7,300 houses were completely destroyed in the three worst-hit provinces of Fars, Bushehr and Yazd. At least 230 people were reported killed by the floods, which also washed away roads, bridges, irrigation networks and large tracts of agricultural land, killing thousands of heads of cattle.

India and Pakistan report progress in bilateral talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Senior Indian and Pakistani officials ended two days of talks here Sunday reporting progress but no formal agreement in efforts to normalize strained relations between the two countries. Foreign Ministry Secretary A.P. Venkateswarar of India and Abdul Sattar of Pakistan said they would meet again early next year in New Delhi to resume the talks, which covered proposed treaties against using force in bilateral relations and attacking each other's nuclear sites.

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King, Mubarak review means for united Arab stand at OIC summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks Sunday on topics related to the current Arab situation, international issues of mutual concern as well as bilateral relations.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, gave no further details but it was believed that the talks between the two leaders centred on means to arrive at a unified Arab stand on issues to be tackled by the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), scheduled to be held in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

During a visit he paid to Egypt last week for talks with Egyptian leaders, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri discussed issues of common interest to Jordan and Egypt to be discussed at the Kuwait summit. A statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said the two countries were in complete agreement on the topics before the Islamic summit.

Petra said Sunday's talks between the King and President Mubarak, which included a working luncheon, were attended

by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Masri and Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami, who arrived with Mr. Mubarak on the same plane.

On the Egyptian side, the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Esmat Abdul Meguid and Mr. Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz and Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbe.

Mr. Mubarak and his wife Suzanne and the delegation accompanying them arrived in Amman on a 24-hour visit Sunday noon and were received upon arrival by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Mr. Rifai, Mr. Qasem, Mr. Masri and senior Jordanian officials as well as Ambassador Wahbe joined the King and Queen in greeting the Egyptian president and his wife.

The King and Mr. Mubarak are expected to attend the OIC summit in Kuwait. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, expressed hope on Saturday that all states of the 46-member OIC would attend the gathering at head-of-state level.

It is also expected that Arab leaders attending the summit will hold meetings on the fringes of the gathering to discuss issues facing the Arab World, including the long-running Iran-Iraq war and efforts to solve the Palestinian problem.

Another issue expected to be discussed by the King and President Mubarak was Jordan-PLO relations after the Kingdom broke political coordination with the leadership of the PLO in February 1986 following the failure of a year-long effort to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

At the conclusion of Mr. Masri's visit to Egypt last week, both Jordan and Egypt said they were determined to pursue efforts to convene an international conference under U.N. auspices with the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict participating.

Iraqi president visits Dammam for brief meeting with Fahd

DAMMAM (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein flew to eastern Saudi Arabia on Sunday and held talks with King Fahd before returning to Baghdad, Saudi Television reported.

It screened his arrival at Al Ahsa, 180 kilometres south of Dammam, where the king opened a new housing complex for the Saudi National Guard earlier Sunday.

No other details were available on President Hussein's previously unannounced visit, which was his first reported trip abroad since going to Moscow last December.

It followed reports from Baghdad that Iraqi forces had defeated an Iranian offensive on the southern Gulf war front.

President Hussein's visit to the kingdom, Iraq's major financial backer, coincided with efforts by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to negotiate a peaceful solution to the six-year-long war.

It also precedes an OIC summit meeting due in Kuwait on Jan. 26 at which the war will be a major topic.

OIC Secretary-General Shahabuddin Pirzadeh arrived in Tehran on Sunday for talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expected to centre on the war, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Speaking on arrival, Mr. Pirzadeh said he would exchange views with Iranian officials on the OIC summit agenda.

On the war front, Iraq said its warplanes attacked a large naval tanker — Baghdad's term for an oil tanker or cargo ship — off the Iranian coast in the Gulf on Sunday.

A military spokesman said the aircraft scored an accurate and effective hit on the vessel at 12:35 p.m.

Shipping sources in the region had no information to confirm the Iraqi attack.

Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has vowed that his country plans to widen its military operations against Iraq and was "counting down for the decisive final blow" to end the Gulf war, IRNA reported Sunday.

The agency quoted the powerful Iranian leader as denying Saturday that Iran's foiled assault on Iraqi defences across the Shatt Al Arab waterway Wednesday night was the long-awaited "final offensive."

Iraq said its forces repulsed the amphibious attack across the waterway, the southern boundary between the warring nations, and killed 32,000 Iranians — the

equivalent of a whole division — who tried to storm Iraqi defences in human wave charges.

Baghdad said, the assault was a major offensive designed to cut off the southern city of Basra, Iraq's second largest city and long considered by military analysts to be the likely objective of the big push the Iranians have said for months was being prepared.

Reporters allowed by the Iraqis to visit the Basra front said they saw the bodies of scores of Iranian soldiers scattered across the battlefield.

There were no reports of major action along the 1,180-kilometre battlefield Sunday following the fierce battles east of Basra Wednesday and Thursday.

An Iranian newspaper said Sunday that Iraqi opposition groups ended a four-day conference in Tehran by calling for increased military activities to overthrow the government of President Hussein.

Islamic Republic newspaper said the conference, organised by Iran's war information headquarters, brought together more than 400 Iraqis representing ethnic Kurds, Muslim clergy, former politicians, professionals, military officers and other segments of society.

Chadian-Libyan fighting reported in Tibesti area

N'DJAMENA (R) — Troops loyal to former Chadian rebel leader and Libyan ally Goukouni Oueddei battled Libyan soldiers in the tiny towns of Chad's rugged northern Tibesti mountains on Sunday, official sources said.

Chad has appealed for Western military aid to help it repulse what it says is a major attack on the Tibesti area by Libya.

The sources told Reuters that "the most decisive fighting" was taking place at Zouar, near Chad's border with Niger, where Mr. Goukouni's Popular Armed Forces were taking on a column of soldiers who had moved south from the Libyan desert town of Sabha.

Battles were also continuing in the Tibesti towns of Bardai, Wour and Yebbi-Bou in the latest military flare-up to Chad's 20-year-old civil war, the sources added.

They had no other details of the military situation in the isolated Tibesti area and there was no independent confirmation of the reported fighting. Libya denies having military forces in the territory of its southern neighbour.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with President Hosni Mubarak and his wife Suzanne after the arrival of the Egyptian president and first lady at Aqaba on Sunday (Petra photos)



Iraq sets death toll in hijack crash at 67

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday that 67 people were killed in an Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 which crash-landed in Saudi Arabia on Thursday after an aborted hijack attempt.

Newspapers published a list of names, including those of two would-be hijackers, issued by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

With the exception of two Iraqis, all appeared to have been citizens of Arab countries.

The aircraft plunged nearly 30,000 feet and crash-landed in flames at Ara' in the Saudi desert near the Iraqi border, after a mid-air gun and bomb fight between hijackers and security guards.

The list of dead included 23 Iraqis, including three flight attendants, 22 Sudanese, 14 Egyptians four Jordanians, two Iranians and two hijackers said to have been carrying Lebanese passports.

They were named as Ziyad Hana Al Asmar and Elia Georgy Hanna.

Survivors saw two hijackers shot and apparently killed by security guards and believed two more escaped the shootout and crash-landed and were handed over to Saudi authorities.

The Saudi government is pursuing its investigation of the disastrous hijack crash in secrecy, but official sources say all those hospitalised are back in Iraq and Jordan.

The Saudi Ministry of Defence and Aviation on Saturday would not release photographs of the crash site.

In Amman, Information Minister Mohammad Khathib told AP he believed two of the injured later died of their wounds.

The Boeing 737 was bound from Baghdad to Amman when, according to survivors' accounts, gunmen stormed the cockpit and set off grenades. The plane crashed and burned.

Survivors said four sky pirates were involved.

Some who gave accounts of the hijack attempt, the subsequent airborne shootout with security guards and the crash said two gunmen were killed, one was wounded and the fourth survived.

Official Saudi sources, who spoke to AP on condition that they not be identified, said the outcome of the Saudi investigation and a survey of the wreckage would be shared with Iraq and Jordan.

"As far as the kingdom is concerned, this will soon be a closed case," said an official in Riyadh.

A Saudi government statement said the plane was attempting an emergency landing at Ara' during the hijacking, missed the runway and burned.

In Beirut, a group calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Movement claimed Saudi warplanes forced the jetliner down and Saudi troops stormed it at Ara', where it exploded.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted a government official as dismissing this allegation as "ridiculous."

"How could it occur to any sane person that Saudi authorities

O'Connor arrives, says plans not definite for meetings in Jerusalem

'We'll deal with the problems as they arise'

By Najwa Najjar with agency dispatches

AMMAN — New York's Roman Catholic cardinal, John O'Connor, arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai as well as other senior officials.

Cardinal O'Connor told the Jordan Times in a phone interview from his hotel room shortly after arrival that his visit to Jordan was in his capacity as the president of the National Catholic Welfare Organisation.

In this capacity "I periodically visit the institutions we support," he said. The organisation supports humanitarian work in 18 countries in the Middle East region and Jordan is one of the major states included in its programmes," he said.

During his visit to Jordan, Cardinal O'Connor is scheduled to visit the Baqaa refugee camp and a welfare clinic in Marka.

"Another reason for my visit is that I was invited by His Majesty," the archbishop of New York and the spiritual leader of the city's



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat (second from left) and Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh (left) receive New York Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor (third from left) and a delegation accompanying him (Petra photo)

Roman Catholics said. Asked what were the topics for his discussions in Jordan, he said: "They invited and therefore they will determine the subjects for discussion."

(Continued on page 3)

Israel deports Haniyeh; troops shoot and wound 2 protesters

JPA, PLO, EC and ICRC decry expulsion

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities deported a Palestinian newspaper editor to Switzerland on Sunday, and Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank who were demonstrating against the expulsion.

Akram Haniyeh, 33, was put aboard a Swissair flight to Zurich by an official of the International Red Cross and by Israeli security men. He was taken by car directly to the plane and was not allowed to speak to reporters.

Gemayel said ready to back Amal against PLO

ABU DHABI (AP) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel was reported Sunday to have offered to support the Shi'ite Amal offensive against Palestinian fighters in Lebanon in return for concessions from his Syrian-backed political rivals.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad said the offer marked a "dramatic shift in alliances."

It quoted unidentified sources close to Mr. Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, as saying the president offered to send Christian army units to back Amal, the military arm of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, if Muslim cabinet members and a boycott they imposed on him and mediate a reconciliation with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The Muslim ministers, including Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a staunch Sunni Muslim ally of Syria, boycotted Mr. Gemayel after he torpedoed a Syrian-sponsored agreement among militia leaders to end the country's nearly 12-year-old civil war.

Mr. Assad has been at odds with Mr. Gemayel since he vetoed the pact signed Dec. 28, 1985, by Amal leader Nabih Berri, Progressive Socialist Party chief Walid Jumblatt and Elie Hobeika, then commander of the Lebanese Forces rightist militia.

Militiamen loyal to Mr. Gemayel have since ousted Dr.

Israeli officials said Mr. Haniyeh was flying on to Algeria. It was the first expulsion of a Palestinian from the occupied West Bank since early this year.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, eight kilometres north of Jerusalem, Israeli troops wounded two Palestinians during an anti-Israeli demonstration, military sources said.

Fifteen other demonstrators were detained during three separate protests in Ramallah, the sources told AP.

Israel Radio said the

Palestinians gathered to protest Mr. Haniyeh's deportation.

Israeli troops dispersed a gathering of Palestinians in another part of Ramallah where tyres were burned and Palestinian flags waved, an Israeli spokesman said.

Tear gas was used during a third incident at nearby Qalandia refugee camp where Palestinians, also threw stones at Israeli vehicles.

The demonstrations were

(Continued on page 3)

Amal-PLO battles rage on despite bad weather

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinians and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen clashed sporadically in bad weather at Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon on Sunday after one person died and 20 were wounded in overnight exchanges, both sides said.

They reported shots and mortar bomb explosions at Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh settlements on the southern edges of Beirut and nearby residential areas, as high winds and rain lashed the capital for the second day running.

Artillery and rocket fire killed eight people and wounded 30 in the same "camps war" battle zone two days ago.

In South Lebanon, sniper shots were reported around the beleaguered Rashidiyeh refugee camp.

Unconfirmed press reports said Syrian forces killed seven gunmen as they combed villages in north Lebanon for fundamentalists suspected of taking part in clashes with Syrians in Tripoli last week.

Police said Saturday the Syrians had detained Sheikh Hashem Mingara, a leader of the fundamentalist Tawheed movement and four of his aides.

Jailed American in U.K. claims Iran arms deal began in 1984

LONDON (AP) — An American in prison in London claims that U.S. agents discussed an arms-for-hostages exchange with Iranian officials almost one year earlier than has been admitted by the U.S. government, London's Sunday Telegraph reported.

The weekly said it was given the information last week in an interview with William Herrmann, whom it identified as a former U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent in both Iran and Iraq during the past ten years.

Herrmann, arrested in May 1985, is serving an eight-year term in Wandsworth Prison for his part in a counterfeit operation. He claims the counterfeiting was an undercover operation of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the report said.

The FBI admitted during Herrmann's trial that he had worked for the agency in the past, but denied it had anything to do with the counterfeiting operation.

The Sunday Telegraph said that while the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan has said its first contacts with Iran were made in August 1985, Herrmann said he discussed the matter in October 1984 with Menuchem Ghorbanifar, an Iranian secret service agent responsible for the security of Iran's embassies and diplomats.

According to the report, Herrmann said the CIA asked him to arrange the meeting to discover whether Iran was willing to contemplate such a deal.

At the meeting in London's

Churchill Hotel, Ghorbanifar said Iran had some influence with Islamic groups in Lebanon and that the release of hostages could be secured in return for arms for Iran's war with Iraq.

It was agreed that an agricultural equipment agency would be established in Iran to serve as a cover for the arms sales, according to the newspaper account.

At that time, there was "deep American concern over the fate of the CIA station chief in Beirut, William Buckley, who was kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad group in March 1984, and who is believed to have been murdered by his captors," the report said.

It said the CIA was worried that Buckley might talk under interrogation about the CIA's Middle East operations.

Herrmann again met with Ghorbanifar in London in December 1984 and was introduced to Cyrus Hashemi, who Ghorbanifar said would act as a third party in the transaction. There were more meetings in London and in Hamburg, West Germany, and Herrmann said it was Ghorbanifar who suggested that funds from the weapons sales should go to the contra guerrillas in Nicaragua.

"Ghorbanifar apparently felt certain that by assisting the administration and CIA in providing more funds for the contra than Congress was ready to sanction, Iran would pave the way for future covert arms sales," the report said.

The report said that throughout Herrmann's trial his defence counsel "maintained that he had infiltrated the London-based counterfeit organisation on behalf of the FBI, and that FBI denials of such an operation were due to the bureau's embarrassment at having had a covert operation, run without the knowledge of the British authorities, revealed in open court."

The counterfeiting apparently was not connected with the Iran arms deal, although the Sunday Telegraph did not say so.

It said that earlier this year, lawyers applied for Herrmann's repatriation to an American prison under the 1984 repatriation of prisoners act. Documentation for such a transfer was being processed and he was due to return home on Oct. 31.

But since the disclosure of the Iran arms deal, the U.S. Justice Department "has insisted that it has not received final consent from Herrmann necessary for the transfer to take place," the report said.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted an unidentified British official as saying: "It is fairly clear that the Americans do not want this man back in the country, and therefore accessible to the Senate inquiry, while the Iran arms deal is being

investigated."

The Sunday Telegraph said its own inquiries "show the disputed final consent form, though signed by Herrmann on Nov. 6, has not been forwarded by the (British) Home Office to Washington."

It said that in addition to this "brake" on his repatriation, Herrmann is also being moved from Wandsworth Prison to the high-security Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight off the south coast of England, despite being a low-risk category prisoner.

The newspaper said it was told Herrmann could clarify for the Senate inquiry the degree of CIA involvement in the early contacts with Iran, and whether the CIA operated with White House knowledge and approval in the arms deal.

When Herrmann was tried at London's Old Bailey court earlier this year, he described himself as a Polish-born former U.S. army officer who became a U.S. citizen in 1956. He said he had retired from the army in 1967, then reenlisted in 1972 for five years, reaching the rank of colonel.

He pleaded innocent to taking part in a plot to flood Britain with forged U.S. dollar notes. Police said they arrested him in a London hotel in May 1985 with \$370,000 in counterfeit dollars.

Herrmann said he was acting on FBI instructions to infiltrate a mafia counterfeit currency operation. Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, who sentenced him on March 26, described Herrmann as a "participant in serious organised crime."

Ship sinks outside Alexandria port

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — A Honduran-registered ship sank outside this Mediterranean port on Saturday after stormy waves battered it against rocks, and one of its seven-man crew was missing, harbour officials said.

The officials said six members of the crew were rescued and were hospitalised with minor injuries. They include four Egyptians, one from Sierra Leone and one from India.

The missing was identified by the officials as Bal Sing, an Indian national. Rescue teams were unable to try and search for Sing because of continuing bad weather.

The officials said the 330-tonne Hadir M. had been carrying 300 tonnes of lentils from Cyprus to Alexandria.

The port had been closed because of bad weather since the ship arrived on Friday. Winds blowing at 60 kilometres per hour and four metre waves had repeatedly battered the ship against rocks only 500 metres off the coast of Alexandria until it was stuck between them and its hold filled with water, they added.

Lebanese appeals for release of kidnapped family

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese student appealed Sunday to the kidnappers of his parents, brother and uncle to release them as a year-end act of mercy.

In a message published in As Safir newspaper, Ramzi Khoury, a Christian in his 20s, said the four had been abducted about 15 months ago.

"I can barely concentrate on my university studies. The shadows of my parents and brother chase me," Khoury wrote. "Please, kidnappers, for my grandmother's sake, set them free."

As Safir printed a photograph of Khoury with his parents.

Iranian officer killed in Karachi

LONDON (R) — An Iranian naval officer was kidnapped and killed in Karachi, Tehran Radio said Sunday in a report from the Pakistani city blaming "agents of global arrogance."

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Capt. Mohammad Valiband was seized on Thursday after he left his home to go shopping. His body was discovered shortly afterwards in the street, it said. He had been shot in the head and chest five times.

Vanunu pleads not guilty

TEL AVIV (R) — Nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu pleaded not guilty Sunday to treason and spy charges after being taken to a closed Israeli court under heavy guard and given no chance for further clandestine communication with journalists.

The 31-year-old Vanunu was brought to a Jerusalem district court for the opening of his closed-door trial amid heavy security and in a police van with the windows painted white. His lawyer said he was handcuffed and reporters were kept away from the court building by a police cordon.

Last week he cheekily flashed a message to reporters on the palm of his hand against the window of a police van saying Israeli agents abducted him in Rome.

Vanunu disappeared in London on Sept. 30 after telling the Sunday Times newspaper Israel had produced nuclear warheads for two decades.

His lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, told reporters his client pleaded not guilty but said a court order prevented him from revealing what took place in the courtroom.

He said he could not reveal the date of Vanunu's next court appearance but state radio said it would be in about a month and a half.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last week that Israel told Italy it did not infringe on Italian sovereignty.

Vanunu disappeared after giving the Sunday Times descriptions and photographs of Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor where he worked for 10 years.

On Nov. 9, the Israelis said they were holding him but refused to give details of how he came to Israel. They said he was not kidnapped from British soil and no British laws were broken.

Vanunu could face life imprisonment if convicted on

charges of aggravated espionage and unauthorised disclosure of secret material with intent to harm state security.

A third charge, of helping an enemy in war, carries the death penalty but jurists say the maximum punishment would apply only if Israel were involved in fighting.

The Sunday Times said Vanunu's disclosures showed Israel was the world's sixth nuclear power. Israel has not responded to the allegations, claiming only that it will not be the first to introduce atomic weapons into the Middle East.

Vanunu was dismissed from the plant last year and emigrated to Australia, where he became a Christian.

Outside the court building, four women with scarves over their mouths and faces shouted encouragement to Vanunu as the convoy of police vans and jeeps passed by. The women described themselves as anarchists and university students, but they did not give their names.

The Sunday Times reported Sunday that Vanunu allegedly abducted in Rome, was grabbed by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, within two hours of arriving on Sept. 30 in the Italian capital from London.

The Sunday Times, to which Vanunu allegedly gave his country's nuclear secrets, said it had established that, ignoring warnings to conceal his identity, the Israeli booked a London-Rome return air ticket in his own name.

Italian newspapers on Saturday published similar reports, saying British Airways has told investigating Italian magistrates that Vanunu had a confirmed reservation and checked a bag on its flight 504 to Rome on Sept. 30.

The Sunday Times said it had



Mordechai Vanunu established from flight records that Vanunu, reportedly lured to Rome by a blonde woman named Cindy, booked the return ticket and boarded the plane. It had not established, the paper said, whether he was travelling with Cindy or alone.

On Saturday, British Airways spokesman Michael Blunt told the AP he could not confirm Vanunu was on flight 504 because personal information stored in computers cannot under British law be divulged publicly without the consent of individuals.

The Sunday Times said that at 11 a.m. on Sept. 30, Vanunu, after checking out of his hotel, telephoned one of his reporters, refused to say where he was, but promised he would make contact the next day and return to London later in the week.

"His plane left (London) Heathrow at 2.10 p.m. and landed at Rome at 6.38 p.m.," said the Sunday Times. "Within two hours of clearing customs there, Vanunu was picked up by Mossad, the Israeli secret service."

The Italian government has ordered an inquiry and pressed Israel for an explanation.

Israel has so far told the British government that it did nothing illegal to get Vanunu out of Britain.

Turkey has more than 500,000 Iranian refugees

By Vedat Erdamar
Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — More than 500,000 Iranians who have fled the war-ravaged Islamic Republic now live in limbo in Turkey, hoping to find refuge in a Western country.

Many refugees left to escape the 6-year-old Iran-Iraq war, while others feared political persecution in a country that also faces a grim economic future.

All 24, sneaked into Turkey without a passport five months ago to dodge military conscription. He lives with five Iranian friends in an apartment in old Istanbul's downtown district of Aksaray, dotted with Iranian restaurants, boutiques, shops and travel agencies serving tourists — and refugees.

"At least one-third of the 300 young men in our middle-class neighbourhood in Tehran died in the war," Ali said. "There were many volunteers in the beginning, but nobody believes in it anymore. Whoever can afford it is fleeing."

He said he paid a smuggling ring of Iranians and Turks the equivalent of \$3,000 for safe passage on foot through the mountainous Iran-Turkey border. Seven other Iranians joined him. The common border stretches 454 kilometres.

This foot route is the Iranians'

principal means to reach the West, although a few have escaped through Pakistan.

All, who did not want to be identified further, said he wants to live in Sweden. He was asked illegal groups to smuggle him to that country, which would cost another \$3,000.

"If I cannot make it, then I'll ask my parents to send me more money and will stay here until (Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini goes," he said.

There are no official figures for the total number of Iranians in Turkey, but the Istanbul daily Milliyet put it at more than 600,000.

Iranians have been fleeing their country because of Iran's war with Iraq, which has claimed more than 700,000 Iranian lives since it began in September 1980. Dissidents also report widespread oppression by fundamentalist Islamic Guards and a worsening economic situation.

The refugees say dissidents face long-term imprisonment or execution, and that Iranian authorities also punish people who have long hair or wear T-shirts or blue jeans.

Th a n i - K h o m e i n i Mujahedeen Khalq group claims that 50,000 people have been executed in Iran since 1979, although Amnesty International

has confirmed only 6,578 executions through 1985.

A 48-year-old Iranian physician who came to Turkey illegally with his family a month ago said he was imprisoned for four months for protesting the appointment of a mullah with no medical training to head Iran's medical society.

He said he has registered with the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to seek asylum in the United States, where his son lives.

Turkish authorities, in most cases, have not taken action against illegal Iranians because they fear Iran will ask for extradition of any Iranians arrested in Turkey. For humanitarian reasons, Ankara would not be likely to allow extradition.

Since 1981, more than 13,000 Iranian refugees have registered with the U.N. commission in Turkey and more than half of them have been resettled in other countries, said Roland Paringaux, a spokesman for the Geneva-based U.N. agency.

But applying to the U.N. agency may mean waiting several months and does not ensure approval. Many Iranian refugees attempt to travel illegally to countries of their choice. West Germany, Sweden and the United States are

among the preferred destinations.

A Foreign Ministry official, who requested anonymity, said countries that "claim to be sensitive to humanitarian matters" have been reluctant to grant asylum to Iranians.

"We have been observing with sorrow that they take a discriminatory attitude when it comes to Iranians," he said.

Paringaux said that between 1981-1985, more than 53,000 Iranians arrived in West European countries through Turkey and were granted at least temporary asylum.

Also, in the first half of 1986, nearly 8,000 Iranians in Turkey reached West Germany after arriving in East Berlin with forged documents.

After West German protests, East Germany tightened entry controls. Some Iranians then began slipping into Greece, where officials say 122 have entered illegally in the last three months.

That touched off a dispute between Turkey and Greece, already at odds on many other issues.

The Greeks charged that Turkish authorities were not making any serious moves to stop Iranians. Turkey accused Greece of blocking the entry of all refugees while embracing Kurdish terrorists.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
15:30	Koran
15:35	Programme review
15:45	Carnous
16:00	Tom Sawyer
16:05	Traffic Instructions
16:30	Scientific programme (Arabic)
17:00	Return of the Antelope
17:25	Not Another Science Show
18:00	Arabic series
19:00	Local development programme
19:20	Programme on Jordan
19:30	Programme review and varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Oman
20:40	Arabic series
21:30	Local literary forum
22:25	Tomorrow's programmes
22:30	Local folklore troupe
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:15	Close down

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Lucien Leuven
19:00	News in French
19:15	Sport magazine (French)
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Fun with Physics
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	No Place like Home
21:10	The Count of Monte Cristo (mini series)
22:40	News in English
22:50	Strangers and Brothers

RADIO JORDAN	
8:55 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
7:00	Light Music
7:30	News
8:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Just a Minute
10:30	News Summary
12:05	News Summary
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:15	French way of Life
15:00	Contest Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:30	Guide to the Galaxy
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Sports Round-up
18:30	Music

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francis Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery, Jabal Amman (until Jan. 7).	
* A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Lubdibeh (until Jan. 23).	
* An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 2).	
* An exhibition of documentary photos of old Jordanian personalities at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).	
* An exhibition of Czechoslovakian paintings at Yarmouk University (until Dec. 31).	
* An exhibition of paintings by Moroccan artist Mehdi Qotbi at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until Jan. 7).	
FEATURE FILM	
"The Wizard of Oz" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre ... tel. 6610267	American Centre ... 644371
American Centre Library ... 641520	British Council ... 6361478
French Cultural Centre ... 637009	Goethe Institute ... 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre ... 644203	Spanish Cultural Centre ... 620449
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 639777	Hays Arts Centre ... 667181/6
Finsen Youth City ... 667181/6	Y.W.C.A. ... 641793
Y.W.C.A. ... 664251	Amman Municipal Library ... 637111
University of Jordan Library ... 845535	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:09	Fajr
06:37	Sunrise
11:36	Dhuhr
14:21	Asr
16:38	Maghreb
18:06	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by The Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:00	Agaba (RU)
09:20	Cairo (RU)
09:25	Jeddah (RU)
09:30	Muscat, Dubai (RU)
09:30	Damascus (RU)
10:00	Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RU)
10:30	London (RU)
10:30	Cairo (RU)
10:45	Casablanca, Tunis (RU)
10:45	Bangkok (RU)
10:45	Baghdad (RU)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
07:35	Cairo (MS)
09:25	Sana'a (LH)
10:45	Kuwait (KU)
10:45	Beirut (ME)
20:30	Baghdad (IA)
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Agaba (RU)
11:30	Cairo (RU)
11:45	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RF)
12:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RU)
13:00	Lamara (RU)
13:30	Cairo (RU)
20:30	Bahrain, Doha (RU)
20:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
20:45	Kuwait, Doha (RU)
21:00	Baghdad (RU)
21:00	Baghdad (RU)
21:15	Cairo (RU)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
06:40	Damascus, Athens (OA)
07:50	Istanbul (TK)
08:20	Cairo (MS)
10:10	Frankfurt (LH)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
21:30	Baghdad (IA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence 1st	271298, 27331
Civil Defence Qwaissneh	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 63777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896340/1
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08)5333040

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Sa'ad Haddadin	657255
Dr. Issa Najjar	674430
Nihrat pharmacy	723672
Salam pharmacy	636730
Sahab pharmacy	668056
Khalid pharmacy	778653
Firas pharmacy	661912

TAXIS:

Kha. di taxi	623715
Jerusalem taxi	639655
Hebron taxi	776100
Bassam taxi	802433
Mu'ab taxi	896634
Al Saleh taxi	774393
Seyha taxi	663019
Kurdi taxi	847572

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammed Ta'ani	243711
Amman pharmacy	(-)
Palestine pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ali Omari	989602
Algeria pharmacy	(-)
Al Sadeq pharmacy	(-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upentower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (double red and green)	600 / 550
Grapes	110 / 80
Lenon	100 / 60
Marrow	180 / 140
Banana	300 / 260
Batana (Mokannar)	250 / 220
Beans	250 / 200
Beetroot	160 / 120
Cabbage	100 / 60
Carrot (black)	160 / 120
Carrot (yellow)	120 / 80
Cauliflower	100 / 60
Chestnut	600 / 500
Cucumbers	450 / 380
Eggplant (small)	240 / 180
Eggplant (huge)	160 / 120

Former senator receives medal from Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — Swedish Ambassador-designate to Jordan Lars Lonnback on Sunday presented former Senator Wadec De'mes with a distinguished medal conferred upon him by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in recognition of distinguished services he offered to Beit Jala area in the occupied West Bank where he served as mayor for a long period.

Affairs Marwan Dudin, the general Swedish consul in Jerusalem, and a number of invited guests.

The King Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala whose board of trustees is chaired by Mr. De'mes, was established as a form of Swedish assistance to Jordan. Since its establishment in 1967, the hospital maintained its health services to the Beit Jala area with direct supervision and financing from the Ministry of Health in Jordan and with support from the government of Sweden.

The reception was attended by Minister of Occupied Territories

NEWS IN BRIEF

JD 100,000 in loans to agricultural co-ops

IRBID (Petra) — The cooperative department here has granted loans totalling JD 100,000 to agricultural cooperatives in the Irbid region. Mr. Mohammad Al Roussan, the department director, said that the loans will finance agricultural projects. The department, he added, is now planning to sell barley and bran to members of the agricultural cooperative societies in the region.

Jordan to host Handball Championship

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Eid Dahiyat, minister of youth, said Sunday Jordan will host the fourth Asian Handball Championship for men and women between Sept. 20 and 30, 1987. The Jordanian Handball Federation had made the request in a letter to the ministry some time earlier. The Ministry of Youth also announced that a Romanian coach will be coming to Jordan to help train youths in handball in preparation for the championship. The coach will be coming in implementation of a Romanian-Jordanian protocol on sports affairs.

Ramtha completes 1st phase of sports city

RAMTHA (Petra) — Ramtha Municipality said Sunday it has completed the first phase of the sports city project which is expected to cost JD 220,000. Ramtha Mayor Ibrahim Al Azaizah said that work has been completed on building the handicrafts zone which cost JD 228,000. This zone contains 85 workshops of a total area of 1,700 square metres. Ramtha Municipality in the coming month will asphalt the main squares of both the sports city, which has a seating capacity for 10,000 people, and the crafts zone.

Exhibition of Czech paintings opens

IRBID (Petra) — An exhibition of Czechoslovakian paintings was opened Sunday at Yarmouk University by the president of the university, Mohammad Hamdan. On display at the four-day exhibition, organised by the Czechoslovakian embassy in Amman, are 79 paintings depicting the landscapes, popular tradition and customs in Czechoslovakia. The opening ceremony was attended by the Czechoslovakian ambassador in Amman and embassy staff, as well as a number of officials and students at the university.

Chinese coaches to help in school sports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth has asked the Ministry of Education to utilise the experiences of Chinese coaches currently training national teams in volleyball, gymnastics, athletics and fencing. The youth ministry also suggested that those coaches hold training courses in these sports for school teams to enrich their experiences and to prepare them to take part in the Arab and international sport activities.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan presents awards to physically handicapped at the Amra Hotel on Sunday (Petra photo).

Handicapped receive special vehicles as gift from King

AMMAN (Petra) — A celebration was held at Amra Hotel Sunday for the distribution of specially designed vehicles to physically handicapped people as a gift from His Majesty King Hussein.

Addressing the celebration, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said that having a handicap should not stop people from leading a decent life like other members of the community. The distribution of these specially designed vehicles to the handicapped is aimed at helping all physically handicapped persons to contribute to the country's prosperity, he said.

The King's gift to the physically handicapped reflects his keenness on spreading social justice and welfare to all members of the society, the minister said.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the General Union of

Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan made a speech in which he outlined the efforts of the private and public sectors over the past few years to offer services to the handicapped in Jordan. But, what has been achieved, he said, is not sufficient for ensuring all the needs of the handicapped in the Kingdom. Dr. Khatib paid tribute to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for setting up the National Aid Fund which offers financial and in-kind help to needy families.

One of the handicapped beneficiaries thanked King Hussein for the gift and praised the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development in rehabilitation. The minister later distributed documents of ownership to the ten physically handicapped persons who received vehicles at the ceremony which was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, and other officials.

Rifai orders crackdown on gunfire at festivals

AMMAN (R) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has ordered a new crackdown on festive gunfire, which, all too often makes tragedies out of happy family events like weddings.

Police say two people were killed and 56 were injured in 82 wedding gunfire incidents in the first nine months of this year. Five died and 32 were injured in 42 cases during 1985.

A nine-year-old girl was one of the recent fatalities, killed by stray bullets fired from an unlicensed gun at a village wedding in Taflih province last June.

"We hope to stop this" Police Colonel Mohammad Al Tarazi told Reuters. "It's an uncivilised way of expressing happiness which unnecessarily turns joy into tragedy."

Wedding gunfire occurs mainly in the provinces. It is now rare in

the capital, Amman, where receptions are usually held in hotels or clubs.

Unauthorised firing of guns is a crime and when there are casualties, the cases can be treated as attempted murder, carrying a possible death penalty or long prison term.

Princess Sarvath's letter

In a letter to the editor of the Jordan Times in July 1984, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath described the firing of weapons at weddings as a senseless action by members of the Jordanian community.

She urged all Jordanians to take heed of the repeated governmental injunctions against an archaic habit, and to realise that it is the responsibility of a caring community to avert further tragedies.

Seminar addresses impact of 5-year development plan on the population

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The local impacts of the JD 4.19 billion 1986-1990 national development plan for Jordan's East and West Banks were the main theme of a seminar which opened here on Sunday.

The three-day event which will discuss the national development plan's general framework and goals, will review in detail the education, health, labour and social development policies of the 5-year plan.

In an opening speech, Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, vice president of the University of Jordan, said that Jordan's population increased by two million over the past three decades to make the total number 2.75 million at the end of 1985, thus registering one of the highest population growth rates worldwide.

Addressing the seminar's audience on behalf of the university's president, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, Dr. Samra said that in 1985, more than half of the population in Jordan were children under 15 years of age and that each Jordanian woman on an average gave birth to seven children, twice the world rate and four times the rate of Western countries.

At present, the normal population growth in Jordan is 3.4 per cent, but the mortality rate among children in the Kingdom is still 60 per thousand, and nearly one third of the population above 15 years of age are illiterate — a situation that requires a well planned development scheme to redress the situation, Dr. Samra said.

Dr. Samra said at the seminar, which is organised by the University of Jordan's Centre for Population Studies in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), that since the 1960s, Jordan has been drafting development plans to implement different socio-economic projects in various parts of the Kingdom.

He added that since the citizen is considered as the most precious asset that Jordan boasts, endeavours are being exerted to help carry out the plan, raise the people's standard of living and improve citizens' welfare.

Dr. Fawzi Sahawneh, director of population studies at the university's Faculty of Arts and chairman of a committee that prepared for the symposium, made a speech referring to the link between population studies and the study of the humanities, and the cooperation between his department and UNFPA.

He said that the UNFPA is providing \$250,000 in the form of scholarships to help promote population research work at the department.

Mr. Sufray Malik, U.N. representative in Jordan, addressed the session paying

tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's address to the 1984 human settlement conference which was held in Mexico. He also voiced appreciation to Jordan for realising the importance of striking a balance between population growth and economic development and for the country's cooperation with the UNFPA for improving citizens living conditions.

In his address, Mr. Malik outlined his office's activities in Jordan and its cooperation with the University of Jordan in providing training seminars and equipment needed for research work in population activities.

The symposium, in which several specialists from ministries and the Housing Corporation are taking part, will be discussing 10 working papers dealing with economic and social subjects included in the new five-year plan.

During Sunday's morning session, three working papers on the plan's framework, its economic policy, and institutional preparations in administration were submitted by Dr. Rima Khalaf, Dr. Fawzi Al Tarawneh and Dr. Amal Farhan respectively.

The overall goals of the plan were 5.1 per cent annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and five per cent annual growth in gross national product (GNP), while the average per capita income was expected to rise at an annual rate of 1.2 per cent.

The plan also aims to provide 201,000 new job opportunities, increase domestic savings through lowering the rates of consumption from the present 111 per cent to 99 per cent, and increase domestic revenues and rationalise recurring government expenditures.

Dr. Khalaf, from the Ministry of Planning, explained that the plan aims at striking a balance between its main objectives, and the restraints and limitations imposed on it, including the balance of payment, the external debt, and the foreign currency deposits.

She said that the plan also aims at reducing the deficit in the balance of trade by increasing exports of goods at an annual rate of seven per cent, by internationalising local contracting services at an annual rate of 5.4 per cent, and by rationalising imports and restricting their annual growth to 2.7 for goods and 2.8 per cent for services.

Increasing Arab economic cooperation and distributing development gains among different regions in the Kingdom are two other objectives of the plan.

Dr. Farhan from the University of Jordan Faculty for Economy and Administrative Sciences, expressed her doubts over the possibility of achieving the plan's present and future goals since Jordan is affected by the regional and international political and economic situation.

Dr. Khalaf called on the Jordanian leadership to consider the present situation to avoid the influence of negative socio-economic and political aspects interfering with the implementation of the national plan.

She suggested that this goal could be achieved if the leadership considers that the political development and its respective institutions are a basic factor to protect successful socio-economic development plans. She said that

political development meant the overall comprehensive context which complements all developmental efforts.

She conceded that political development is a basic measurement for the country's socio-economic and cultural development, and is an accumulative process which includes professional specialisation.

The conference's afternoon session was chaired by Dr. Fahed Al Fanek. Two working papers on the plan's health and educational policy and their effect on the population were submitted by Dr. Sami Khoury and Dr. Ahmad Hamoudah respectively.

Dr. Sami Khoury, from the University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine, said that the development scheme for the health sector was based on the demographic and comprehensive health services, two factors which affect the population growth rates.

Dr. Khoury said that child mortality rates have decreased. Life expectancy rates have increased. This has led the population of Jordan to double in number in 17.5 years.

He said that the development plan for this sector is also based on upgrading the preventive health measures and offering more rehabilitation and treatment services. He said that the plan aims at achieving a 100 per cent health coverage for citizens by the year 2000.

Dr. Khoury concluded that, if the health development plan is executed thoroughly, the standard of maternal care will increase, infant mortality will decrease, life expectancy rates will increase, and the number of senior citizens will increase.

Dr. Khoury said that, if health for all is to be secured by the year 2000, two factors have to be examined: a quantitative specification to the goals, and the demographic affects resulting from such a scheme.

Dr. Fanek said that if the present trend in population growth continues, Jordan's total population, after 100 years, would reach 176 million.

Jordanian and Iraqi officials review transport operations of joint company

OBAGHDAD (Petra) — The general assembly of the Jordanian Iraqi Land Transport Company opened meetings here Sunday to discuss the company's operations and its role in developing the economies of both Iraq and Jordan.

Mr. Ahmad Dakhaan, minister of transport, is leading Jordan's delegation and Mr. Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi, the Iraqi transport minister, is heading his team to the two day meeting.

After the first session, the Iraqi

minister told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the general assembly is reviewing the company's achievements, and will endorse its 1987 budget.

The Amman-based company plans to boost its fleet of lorries and to develop its activities in order to meet the growing demand on the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan, the minister said.

He added that Egypt has been invited to send a delegation and take part in the meeting noting

that an Egyptian delegation had earlier visited the city of Aqaba and examined the company's installations and situation before deciding to participate in the joint company.

O'Connor arrives, says plans not definite

(Continued from page 1)

Cardinal O'Connor was received upon arrival here by Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs. Bishop Elias Khoury, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, and representatives of the pontifical mission in Amman and the Christian community in Jordan.

The cardinal, who is due in Jerusalem on Thursday, is accompanied by senior officials of the National Catholic Welfare Organisation including

Archbishop Daniel Kucera, Monsignor John Nolan and Monsignor McCarthy.

Cardinal O'Connor's arrival here coincided with renewed demands by Israeli leaders that the archbishop call on them in their offices in occupied Jerusalem during his visit to the Holy Land.

Asked to comment on the demands, which followed a series of controversial reports, Cardinal O'Connor told the Jordan Times that he had spoken with Israeli officials before his departure from New York Saturday night and that it was decided that "the best thing

to do was to wait until I arrive" in the region.

Asked to comment on a statement on Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that he would refuse to meet Cardinal O'Connor if the archbishop did not call on him at the Israeli Prime Ministry in occupied Jerusalem, the cardinal said: "We'll just see what happens and deal with the problems as they arise."

"I will be surprised if I do not meet with Israeli officials," he added. He confirmed that he would be meeting Teddy Kollek, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem and other officials.

On Friday, Israeli officials expressed "surprise and puzzlement" after the Vatican's Jerusalem mission cancelled Cardinal O'Connor's appointments with Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Israeli Radio quoted Cardinal O'Connor as saying before his departure from New York that he would meet Israeli leaders — but not in their offices in Jerusalem.

A spokesman for Cardinal O'Connor said in New York on Saturday that the archbishop hoped to visit Israeli leaders "informally."

Earlier reports quoted the cardinal as saying he had cancelled meetings with Israeli President Chaim Herzog, Mr. Shamir and other officials because holding them in Jerusalem violated Vatican protocol.

Differences between Israel and the Vatican date to the unimplemented U.N. recommendation of 1947 that Jerusalem be made an international zone where the Vatican would wield significant power over Christian holy sites.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman said Sunday Mr. Shamir would not agree to meet Cardinal O'Connor outside Jerusalem or in his home.

Israel deports editor

(Continued from page 1)

believed also connected to the anniversary of "Fateh Day" on Jan. 1, marking the first operation against Israel in 1965 by the Fateh movement, the Israeli spokesman said.

Fateh is the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In Amman, the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) issued a statement calling on all Arab organisations to campaign for the repatriation of Mr. Haniyeh and all other Palestinians expelled from their homeland by Israel.

Accusing Israel of trying to empty Palestine of its people, the association said Mr. Haniyeh's expulsion "forms an aggression against freedom of expression in the occupied territory and reveals the falsity of Zionist claims of respect for democratic freedoms and opinion."

In Tunis, the PLO condemned the expulsion as a violation of international law. Spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said it would only strengthen the resolve of Palestinians to resist Israel's occupation of their homeland.

In London, Britain condemned the Israeli action as a breach of international law.

In a statement issued in its capacity as current president of the European Community, Britain said: "The 12 (EC) nations deplore the decision of the Israeli authorities to deport Akram Haniyeh."

"They recall their long-standing opposition to such action which they regard as contrary to international law."

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross denounced the expulsion as a new "violation of humanitarian law."

Mr. Haniyeh arrived aboard a Swissair flight in Zurich where he was to stay in transit.

J V T C XMAS PRIZES

The results of JVT C's Xmas Prizes draw which took place at 6.30 p.m. on Xmas Eve were as follows:

- 1st prize: Return air-ticket to Rome — winner: Mr. S. Birkatani — membership No. 911
- 2nd prize: Return air-ticket to Lamaca — winner: Mr. N. Darwazeh — membership No. 854
- 3rd prize: Basket of chocolate — winner: Mr. N. Mu'asher — membership No. 459B
- 4th prize: Diamond ring — winner: Mr. E. Kalis — membership No. 390
- 5th prize: Basket of chocolate — winner: Mr. A. Mu'asher — membership No. 1740
- 6th prize: Free membership for 50 video films — winner: Miss Y. Kattan — membership No. 1765

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Enough is enough

WHATEVER the exact number of the casualties which ensued from the Iranian Christmas eve offensive against Iraq, there were thousands killed, or rather murdered, on both sides of the fence. It is still hard to figure out why Iran persists in sacrificing thousands of its own sons and the sons of Iraq when every sensible man knows that, in the Iran-Iraq war, there can be no winner. The only visible score that Iran is showing from its obstinate offensives against Iraq is its repeated demonstration to the world at large that human lives figure very little in its calculations. If Iran intended, by its latest assault on the island of Umm Al Rassas in the Shatt Al Arab waterway, to impress or influence the forthcoming Islamic conference, which is due to be held in Kuwait in January, it has failed miserably at that. The Islamic conference needs only to take stock of the casualties sustained in the conflict so far to determine that Iran has needlessly allowed this atrocious war to continue. How many more lives will Iran sacrifice and slaughter before it sees the folly of its ways, which the whole international community has recognised for years.

Certainly, it would be very hard to forget the blood that has been spilled since the beginning of the war. But, surely it will be even harder to continue to allow blood to be spilled for no apparent sensible reason or justification. It is incumbent now on the Islamic conference to address the Iran-Iraq war in a more coherent and effective way, with a view to putting an immediate end to the fighting for "a sake of the innocent people of Iran and Iraq, if not for the sake of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood. The war has already left a trail of untold devastation and death across the two countries. The economies of the two nations have been shattered, and, while the Islamic nations kept their distance from the armed conflict, others in the world have been cashing in on the on-going war and have been fuelling it.

People of goodwill all over the world have said, and we say it again that enough is enough. The end of this year must mark the end of this infamous war. The whole international community must act and act now, not by words but rather by deeds. The Islamic conference must act more vigorously in this direction and outside powers must stop fanning the flames of war in the Gulf region by putting an end to their overt and covert military shipments to serve their selfish designs. It is unconscionable to have states among the international community which allow and even contribute to the slaughter of thousands of innocent lives in our region in order to serve their ideology and interests in this region of the world.

We call on all countries of the world on this festive season of the new year to join hands and act together to put an end to the bleeding in our region. A good new year resolution for the international community to take on this occasion would be an international commitment to halt the war.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Paramount questions in Kuwait

IT is most gratifying to hear that all Islamic nations have now agreed to attend the Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait on Jan. 26 for the sake of resolving issues plaguing the Muslim nation. But it is useful to remind the leaders of these nations of the need of attending such an important gathering at the head-of-state level because only leaders of countries have the power to endorse resolutions, and that ample preparation for such a summit meeting should be made so that the leaders can reach fruitful results benefiting all Arab and Muslim countries. What the leaders ought to discuss is the question of Arab Jerusalem which lies under Israeli occupation, the Gulf war which has been going on for more than six years and the massacres being committed against Palestinians in Lebanon. What the leaders should first tackle is the question of bringing about peace among their various countries so that they can reach agreement on all topics on the agenda. Perhaps Israel's continued aggression on Arab and Islamic nations forms a common denominator for all these countries meeting in Kuwait, and it is hoped that the Muslim leaders would pool their resources and their power for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the holy places now under Israeli rule. We believe that the question of liberating Israeli-held Arab land should be the first priority for these leaders. It is high time for Arab and Islamic nations to dedicate their time, effort and financial and economic power to achieve Arab and Muslim countries' aspirations.

Al Dustour: Last chance for Lebanon

LEBANON is now threatened with total collapse and disintegration in the absence of social, political and economic stability and the on-going fighting in different regions. This small country is practically without a central government that can handle all these issues and bring back confidence to the country's economy which is now nearing total collapse. The feeble links between the warring factions in Lebanon are being severed and the different militiamen in the streets and their leaders are speeding up this process in preparation for the ultimate objective: the demise of the Lebanese nation. Any excuses that external forces are responsible for what is happening now inside Lebanon cannot be accepted since the Lebanese themselves have the key to the solution because they can stop the fighting now and end the tragedy and the destruction of the country. Leaders of various communities and factions should come together and start discussing means of stopping the war if they want to see an end to the deteriorating economic conditions and prevent a starvation and total anarchy. This is the last chance for the Lebanese people to wake up and look around themselves and it is the last point before the complete collapse of the nation. The Arab countries which now watch that catastrophe should help the Lebanese avoid prevent an extinction of their nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs should move

ONE cannot help feeling disgusted and totally horrified upon seeing the bodies of Iranian troops strewn along the battlefield, and one cannot help blaming the Iranian leadership for this tragedy befalling the Iranian people. The Tehran regime has been sending thousands of Iranian soldiers to their death at the battlefield in a futile war and hopeless attempt to occupy Iraqi territory. Tens of thousands of Iranians are being sacrificed by the Tehran regime in order to fulfill its objectives of occupying Iraqi land. For the Iraqis, it is a matter of defending their soil and their nation, but for the Iranians it is aggression and lust for expansion. More and more Iranians are being forced to sacrifice their souls and pay with their blood at a time when their country continues to suffer socially and economically. What is more important is that the Iraqi victors are seeking peace and they have been urging world organisations to help achieve that goal. For their call to yield fruitful response, the Iraqis require stepped-up efforts on the part of the Arab and Islamic countries and intensified endeavours on the part of various world organisations. Arab and Islamic nations should realise that Israel and Iran are now concerning their efforts for dismembering the Arab Nation and both are

A season for reflection and meditation

By Waleed Sa'di

WE are on the threshold of a new year. The end of every year, albeit a festive one, is nevertheless a season for reflection and meditation over the events and developments that have contributed to changes, whether they are of a personal nature or of a national dimension, in 1986. We all become even a bit melancholic as we prepare to bid farewell to the year that was, and begin to take stock of what had happened to us, our families and our countries over the past 12 months. Surely there are many personal decisions which we had made but wish we hadn't; and likewise there took place many developments in the national and international levels that we wish did not. This, as we say in the Islamic Orient, is the "summit al hayyat," meaning that that is the nature of things in life, and we have to accept it.

As if in search of solace and comfort, we all traditionally seize upon the occasion of the end of each passing year, as we must be doing for the 1986/87 occasion, to espouse new wishes and resolutions for the new year. For the most part, such wishes and resolutions go with the wind, disappear gradually like the bubbles of the champagne bottles that are opened for the occasion. The question that surely haunts us year in and year out when we go to the annual ritual of celebrating the end of the old year and the beginning of the new year is why things don't seem to really get any better and our resolutions for the new year remain unfulfilled for the most part.

It appears of final reflection that our wishes for better tidings and our resolutions for the newest year elude fulfillment and realisation because the events subject of our individual and collective wishes and resolutions are controlled or, if you will, determined by inertia, which in the nature of things is multidisciplinary and multi-dimensional. Man seems helpless in shaping or controlling such forces. At least so it seems.

In the Arab World, it has become traditional for us to pronounce identical national wishes on the occasion of the new year, year in and year out as our conflicts, issues and crises remain fundamentally the

same and continue to elude effective resolution. And our problems remain fundamentally the same because their causes are the same and have been the same ever since we earned our independence. Likewise these problems still await resolution because their causes had not been addressed yet. Of course we always pray that our problems could go away and disappear by an act of the providence notwithstanding the religious caveat that God changes people only to the extent that they change themselves.

Specifically our wishes and prayers call for an equitable and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem, a just and durable end to the Iran-Iraq war, a balanced resolution of the civil strife in Lebanon, one year closer to elusive Arab unity, and last but not least, that our material well being and prosperity can attain the enviable high annual GNP rises. But these matters and challenges persist among us and if they change they change only superficially. Sometimes they assume new forms and shapes but their essence remains static.

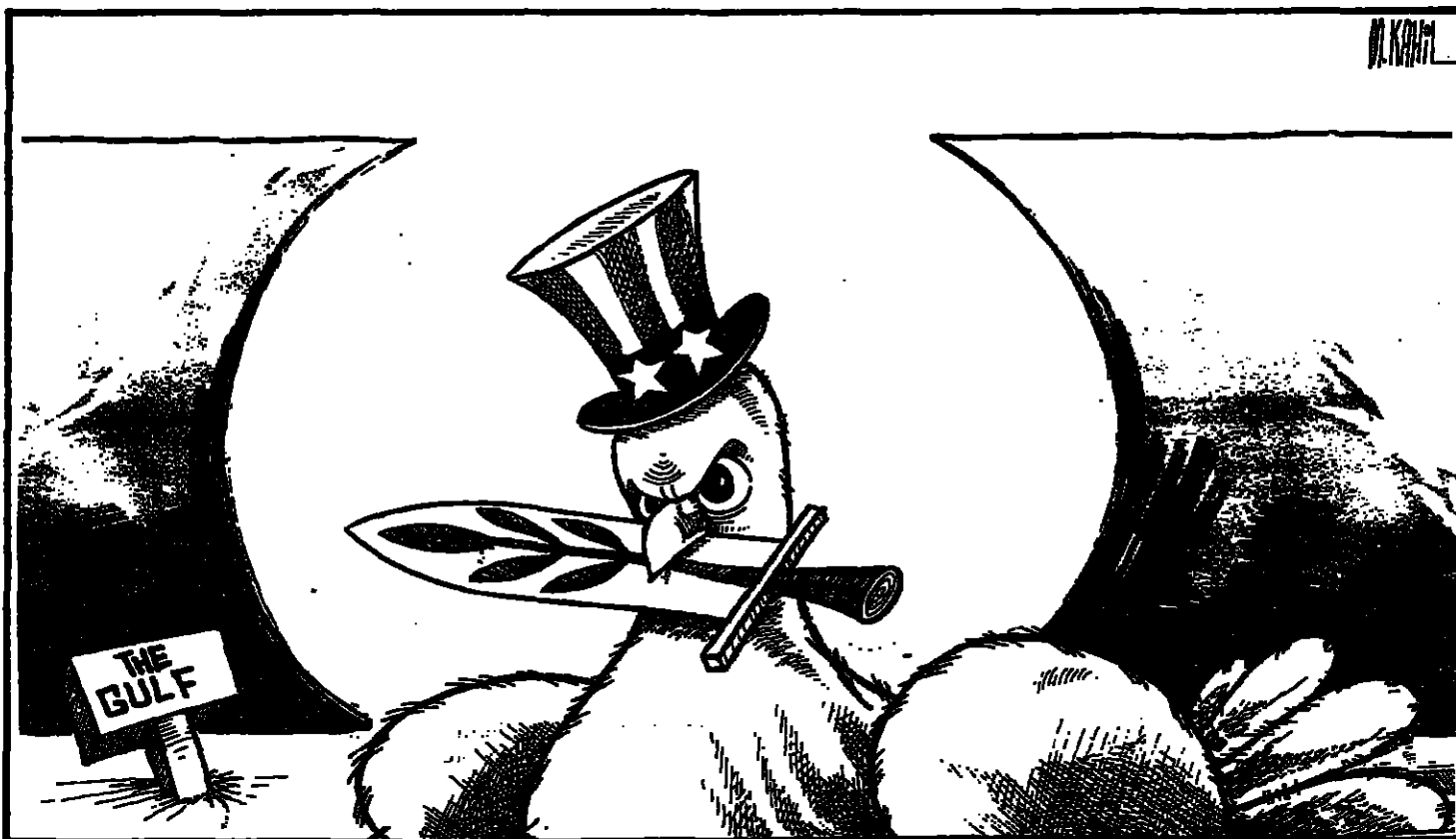
Political scientists well versed in the science of the dynamics of modernisation assert that national behavioural patterns are determined to a great extent by a set of factors and circumstances which appear to change and evolve at only a painstaking pace. Such political scientists even maintain that one may succeed in making projections for the future of states with reasonable precision if sufficient data is available. Of course the more accurate and complete the data, the more precise the projection is. The heart of the matter for our policymakers is therefore to gather such data in a scientific manner and attempt on their basis to articulate and formulate our across the board futuristic policies. Otherwise, we would be sailing aimlessly across the uncharted seas.

It would be such an opportune time now, when we are approaching the end of 1986 and the beginning of the new year of 1987, to begin this process of data gathering about ourselves and country with a

view to approach our ailments and problems in a new light and fresh perspective. We should have noted by now that many of our problems stay with us much longer than they should because our ways of dealing with them have stayed the same. We don't seem to change very much in our decision-making process and appear to stick to the old archaic methodology which had gotten us nowhere. I am sure that all of us have noted that insight of our modern clothes and cars and houses, our mentality has not evolved very much over the span of the last two or three generations. We still decide on issues and determine our paths in the same way that our grandfathers had done. Although we are literally one generation away from the twenty-first century, we are, figuratively speaking, still one generation away also from the 19th century. And while there is a proliferation of university graduates among us and an abundance of highly trained technicians, we are literally at a stand still in terms of real intellectual development. Instead of the doctorate degrees transforming their country and society, one finds that the other way around is happening: Our university graduates succumb to the old ways to the extent that one cannot distinguish them from the non-university graduates in terms which really count. Some of us even label our multi-dimensional crises as a civilisation order. But whether it is of such a magnitude or not, the end of the year is a propitious occasion to engage in some soul-searching on the personal level as well as on the collective and national levels.

The fault surely lies with us in the final analysis and collectively our faults transform into the general problem of our country and society.

While it is hard to admit one's faults in public, it is easy to do privately and in the context of the soul-searching that is demanded of us on the occasion of the end of this year. We would be rendering the greatest service to ourselves and to our country if we take a few moments from festivities of the new year eve to reflect on how we have a continued intellectual and moral courage to be ourselves and in the best traditions of our civilisation and culture.



The harsh reality of child labour

By Paul Marriage and Katherine Forestier-Walker

NEW DELHI, India — At 3 a.m. each morning, a bus arrives in the village of Kangerseval in southern India. Children aged between six and 12 are loaded up and taken to the nearby town of Sivakasi. It will be another 16 hours before they are delivered back to their homes.

These children, like 45,000 others in the area, are heading for matchstick factories, where the pressure of piecework means that during the day they will hardly have time to raise their heads. Yet they earn between two and five rupees a day — the equivalent of just a few U.S. cents.

Much of this work is illegal. The Indian constitution bans the employment of children under 14 in factories, mines and other hazardous occupations. But it goes on all the same.

New efforts to control it have only served to heighten the controversy over child labour in India. The government plans to introduce new measures which are meant to protect working children, but these have been denounced by opponents as a charter for child exploitation. It is not regularisation but legislation that will occur, according to Dr. Walter Fernandes of the Indian Social Institute in New Delhi, who has directed a study that throws new light on the issue.

The Ministry of Labour has declared that child labour is a "harsh reality" in India, and that the livelihood of millions of poor people depends on the income brought in by their children. The ministry says it therefore cannot abolish child labour, but must find ways of helping working youngsters.

The government estimates that there are over 17 million working children in the country, based on the 1983 National Sample Survey.

But the Indian Social Institute talks of between 40 and 44 million. Unlike the government, the institute includes those who do not earn wages, such as bonded labourers and those who work in family units.

Details of the new Child Labour Bill have not yet been published, but the government has said that it is considering a package of welfare measures, including minimum wages, training and limits on working hours. A pilot programme along these lines is already being set up at Sivakasi, following an outcry over child exploitation in the match factories, which is said by the institute to be one of the largest instances of child labour in the world.

The possibility of reducing the legal minimum working age from 14 to 12 is also reportedly being looked at, though critics see that suggestion as a challenge to the constitution, which promises education up to the age of 14. In principle, the new legislation would be enforced by inspectors, with the cooperation of social workers and voluntary groups. But opponents fear that it would amount to a wolf in sheep's clothing. They say the welfare measures would be impossible to implement and at the same time, would be a tacit consent to child labour.

"We say: why have a new bill, when they can't even enforce the existing law?" says Dr. Neera Burra, the assistant project director of the Indian Social Institute's study and one of the organisers of a UNICEF-supported conference on the problem, held in August 1986. According to her, the main reasons for the failure of the law have been corruption among

officials and intimidation. Some bosses employ gangs of thugs to frighten the labour force and concerned outsiders into silence.

Dr. Burra says that new welfare measures would be even more difficult to enforce in the case of children who work in the comparatively unorganised sector, such as restaurants and small workshops, or on farms. Furthermore, some of the new proposals, like the offer of a midday meal, might actually encourage more parents to send their children to work.

The institute challenges one of the fundamental assumptions behind the government's bill, namely that poverty is the root cause of child labour. The institute says that poverty is only one factor in a more complex situation. Many employers prefer children to adults, because they can be paid less, can be manipulated to work harder and are more suitable for some occupations. For example, in the hand-knotted carpet industry — which is still one of India's big foreign exchange earners — children with their nimble fingers and sharp eyes can work faster than adults.

One conclusion of the institute's study is that child labour perpetuates the backwardness of the most disadvantaged people in Indian society. Dr. Fernandes says: "Eighty per cent of working children are untouchables. Child labour ensures that they don't receive any education and remain illiterate. They are forced to remain in the unskilled sector."

In many industries, such as the glass industry in Ferozabad, which has been investigated by Dr. Burra, the working life of the employees is short. Dr. Burra interviewed Vijay Pal, aged 16. He is a glass-blower who started work when he was six. He said that

the 12 or 14-hour shifts meant that a glass-blower can only work for a little more than 10 years. So what will happen when Vijay can no longer blow glass? "If I manage to save some money, then I'll start a shop," he said. "Otherwise, when I have children, I will send them out to work."

The Indian Social Institute argues that what is really needed is not welfare but development schemes, to help families earn more money and to reduce the pressure on them to send youngsters to work. One such scheme could be irrigation to improve marginal land in rural areas.

The Indian government has stated that its long-term aim is still the eradication of child labour. Mr. Ashok Narayan, joint secretary at the Ministry of Labour, says that existing legislation is not comprehensive and that the purpose of the new law is "to demarcate clearly where child labour should be banned and where regulated." A committee would be set up to define that. "Today we don't know whether certain occupations are hazardous," he says.

Mr. Narayan admits that legislation alone cannot solve the problem. "It is not just a question of having a particular law. What we need is, firstly, proper legislation to define child labour; second, administrative action to attack it and thirdly, a raising of consciousness about it."

The contents of the Bill will be seen by many as a test of the Indian government's real commitment to improving the lot of youngsters, such as the glass-blowers of Ferozabad, the carpet-weavers of Kashmir and the matchstick children of Sivakasi — Earthscan.

1986 — Year of the spy trial

By William M. Welch

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — From Washington and Moscow to Bonn and New Delhi, espionage was much in the news in 1986 — and spy charges caused particularly sharp tensions between the superpowers.

The Walker ring, broken when the Federal Bureau of Investigation nabbed John A. Walker after he made a drop for his Soviet spy master, was detailed as one of the most damaging U.S. breaches ever. Walker and his partner, former navy radioman Jerry Whitworth, were convicted and sentenced to life terms.

Espionage charges against a Soviet official at the United Nations touched off an East-West statement when the Soviets responded by jailing American journalist Nicholas Daniloff on what the United States said were trumped-up spy charges.

Galvanised by the record 13 spy arrests in 1985, the U.S. government looked to its apply new standards for investigating employees for security clearances and improved ways to encode communications.

Intelligence reports indicated the Soviets used spying to narrow the U.S. gap in high technology. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said the Soviets had used third parties to buy sensitive equipment.

The biggest case, involving the Walker family, wound through the courts in 1986, ending with Whitworth's conviction in federal court in San Francisco in July.

He sold the secrets to John Walker, who for at least 18 years operated a spy ring that also involved Walker's son and brother.

"His treason did grievous harm to this nation," said Navy Secretary John F. Lehman Jr., who contends it will take years and perhaps \$100 million in improvements to repair the damage.

U.S. officials say the Walker ring provided the Soviets with the keys to unscrambling much of the navy's encoded radio communications during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Fallout from the mysterious case of KGB agent Vitaly Yurchenko, who defected last year and later returned to Moscow, was seen in the trial of National Security Agency (NSA) employee Ronald Pelton.

Pelton was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of selling the Soviets sensitive NSA information about the interception and decoding of Soviet electronic signals.

The U.S. government said the Yurchenko had been Pelton's contact and had tipped investigators after defecting.

Another spy who was said to have damaged U.S. security interests, former CIA agent Edward Lee Howard, turned up in

Moscow in August and was granted asylum. Intelligence sources have said Howard's disclosures about U.S. operations in Moscow led to the execution of a CIA contract.

A navy counterterrorism analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, and his wife pleaded guilty to espionage in June and face a possible life imprisonment. Pollard acknowledged selling American military documents to Israel.

The arrest in August of Gennadiy Zakharov on a New York subway platform touched off the Daniloff dispute and led the U.S. to expel 25 Soviets from the U.N., among them were Soviet intelligence operatives said to have been pointed out by Zakharov.

Zakharov allegedly tried to pay an FBI informant for classified documents on military jet engines; the Soviet Union said he was innocent.

Within a week of Zakharov's arrest, the Soviets arrested Daniloff, the Moscow correspondent for U.S. News and World Report magazine, on espionage charges. Although U.S. President Ronald Reagan insisted there was no swap, Zakharov returned to the Soviet Union a day after Daniloff was released.

West Germany was jolted when prosecutors filed spying charges against Margaret Hoeke in 1986, after her arrest the previous year. She was charged with passing information to Moscow from hundreds, perhaps thousands, of classified documents during her work as a secretary for five different presidents between 1972 and 1985.

The government linked Mrs. Hoeke to the 1985 defection to East Germany of Hans-Joachim Tiedge, who had been a top counter-intelligence official for West Germany.

Late in the year, a member of the policy staff of the West German armed forces chief of staff was arrested. The damage allegedly done by Juergen Westphal, who had worked on military applications of computer systems, was yet to be determined as the year ended.

A court in India convicted five government officials and a businessman in October of spying for the CIA. Judge S.C. Sain said they were involved in a 15-year spy ring that regularly supplied classified information about India's military projects and secret monthly reports by several ministries.

One of the government officials also was convicted of passing secrets to a Soviet diplomat.

Six U.S. embassy officials implicated in the espionage were expelled by the Indian government soon after investigators discovered the ring in 1977.

New Reagan Iran adviser is a softspoken conservative

The post went to former diplomat Frank Carlucci.

Abshire will assume his new cabinet-level post as White House special adviser on Jan. 5 but will continue with some NATO duties until his successor is confirmed by the Senate.

A founder of a conservative Washington think-tank known as the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Abshire was a Reagan adviser during the transition before the 75-year-old president was inaugurated on Jan. 20, 1981.

the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the long range planning board for the chief of naval operations.

The softspoken, rather colourless historian is described as a pragmatic establishment Republican.

He has held a wide range of Washington jobs without making real enemies. But some conservatives said he would not have had the dynamism or ideological conviction to be national security adviser.

Abshire, born in Chattanooga,

distinguished service medal in Korea and has written or edited four books. He holds a doctorate in history from Georgetown University.

He is no stranger to controversy. Named assistant secretary of state for congressional relations in 1970, he was a key figure in trying to explain the Nixon administration's South East Asian policies to Congress.

He served on the board investigating the foreign policy mistakes

presidential assistant and secretary of state not be given again to one official, as they were to Henry Kissinger.

The CSIS has grown from a \$120,000-a-year operation with seven employees based in a townhouse to a \$6 million-a-year think tank employing 150 historians, economists, former public officials, researchers and support staff.

He served on the board investigating the foreign policy mistakes

scholarly research.

Abshire drew favourable reviews from fellow NATO envoys, whom he regularly briefed on the progress of arms talks in Geneva. But he ran into criticism at home when he joined 22 U.S. ambassadors in endorsing controversial anti-conservative Senator Jesse Helms for reelection this year.

But officials said Abshire had good relations with Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger.

Jordan's tourism sector is in need of structural reorganisation, experts say

By Najwa Najjar

AMMAN — There is no scarcity of tourists in Jordan; however, a cross section survey indicates that there are several fundamental factors which restrict the government, as well as the private sector businesses and tour operators, from building the Kingdom into a major tourist spot in the Middle East.

"Hesitancy on the part of the government on whether to build Jordan as a tourist country or not has created a major problem in the tourist industry," said Mr. Jafar Tuqan, a well-known architect in Jordan. This wavering attitude developed for several reasons.

Limited experience

Jordan is still a relatively young country with limited experience in the field of tourism. Mr. Tuqan pointed out that there is indecision on the part of the government on whether to cater to the scholars and archaeologists or to the holidaymakers. He believes that this is a crucial decision in order to erect the appropriate hotels and entertainment.

Vice president of public relations for the Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), Mr. Munib Tuqan feels that Jordan is more prepared for the scholars and archaeologists than for the holidaymakers. "Since Jordan is still a traditional country how can we expect to amuse thousands of youngsters?" asked Mr. Tuqan. The architect Mr. Jafar Tuqan added "we cannot have tourism on our own conditions. If we say we want holidaymakers then we must be prepared to offer them variety of entertainments."

Another major factor which affects the government, yet which is seldom cited, is the instability of

the region. A source who requested anonymity said, "the government is reluctant to place large sums of money into projects which may be exposed to danger."

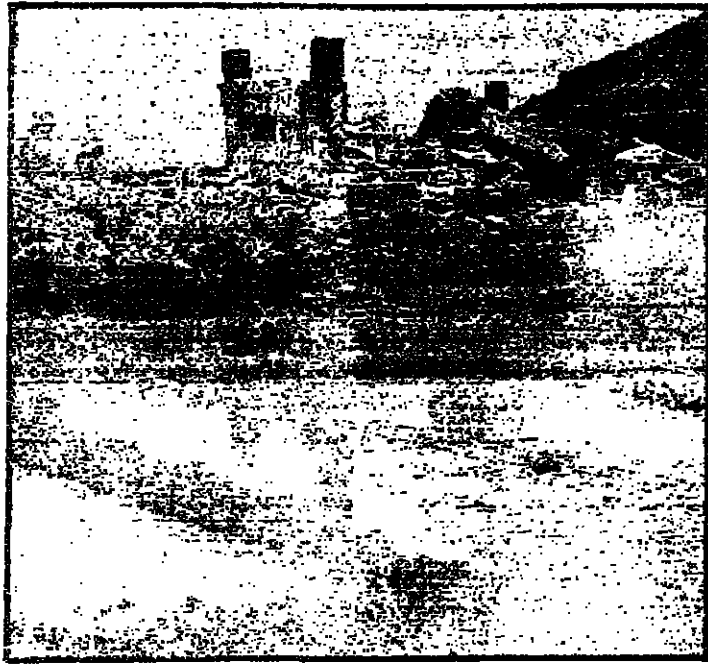
Need for infrastructure

The government's hesitancy can also be attributed to the "government's belief that the private sector should run the projects and the government's responsibility to construct the infrastructure," said Mr. Nisri Atalla, the director general of Tourism Authority at the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

However, Mr. Atalla believes there are other responsibilities the government should fulfill such as non-profit projects. "The government is not willing to invest in these non-profit projects since the projects will not yield any returns immediately, in fact they may lose," said Mr. Atalla. "but in the long run the country as a whole will gain." He explained that by expanding services outside of Amman tourists' stay in the Kingdom will be extended, thereby increasing the flow of money into the country.

For example, a plan for a Roman road complex in Madaba is presently underway, continued Mr. Atalla. This project includes a museum, centres for glass blowing and carpet weaving, and rest houses.

The Christian heritage of Madaba attracts a lot of tourists said Mr. Atalla, "and even though the Roman road complex will not generate any income, we hope that it will directly and indirectly increase the flow of money into the Kingdom by increasing the tourists' stay in Jordan."



Umm Qeis

Studies for other non-profit projects are also being studied by the Ministry of Tourism. In the south of Jordan, plans to build a tourist city in Wadi Rum have begun. "It will offer those tourists from Europe one night in the desert in winter away from the cold and asphalt of their countries, while increasing over night stay in Jordan," said Mr. Atalla.

In addition, foreign companies have conducted studies in Zara and have recommended constructing tourist places to take advantage of the hot mineral waters there, said Mr. Atalla. At the moment there is an offer for private companies to lease land at Zara, and build a non-medical leisure spa, and recreation centre. Land has also been allocated for

tourism at the Dead Sea added Mr. Atalla. Recently, Nabih Nazzari and Sons have obtained approval by the Cabinet to start with a saltland village for individuals with the skin disease psoriasis.

Although many of the projects under consideration are major in terms of scope and investment, the Ministry of Tourism plans include small non-profit projects as well, such as rest houses, restaurants and small motels on the way to Ajloun, Umm Qeis, Mushara, Madaba and Mukwar. Mr. Atalla feels that these projects are of utmost importance for the country's tourism and for increasing over night stay.

He explained that tourists usually only come to Amman to visit Petra, even though there are many beautiful sites all over Jordan. "For example, the antiquities at Umm Qeis are breathtaking, but there are no facilities on the way; therefore, tourists are reluctant to take the two hour trip," said Mr. Atalla.

Complementary architecture

Not only are non-profit projects needed to promote tourism, but the available rest houses require improvements. Mr. Atalla asserted that the rest houses in Jordan are inadequate to meet the demands of the 1980s, since they were built in the 1950s.

"Jordan is an appealing country naturewise. The northern and western areas have sufficient greenery to make their rolling hills beautiful. In the past years, construction of the private and public sector, in my opinion, has been catastrophic, turning the beautiful scenery into ugliness," he said.

"At best rest houses are a bad replica of Jordanian architecture," said Mr. Jafar Tuqan. Tourist facilities have not been handled with sufficient

architectural consciousness which has had a negative impact on the marketability of tourism in Jordan, he said.

"Tourists will only go to the rest houses at Azrak or Wadi Rum because they are the only ones available. The Social Security Corporation, who recently bought the majority of the rest houses nationwide, is handling the architectural aspects in a pathetic manner. The scenery, workmanship, environment, geography, and material are not taken into consideration and therefore, does not complement the nature of the country," continued Mr. Tuqan.

"Good taste in designing is not expensive. In fact, if they build with the proper technology, it will probably be more profitable, since it will less likely need maintenance," quickly Mr. Tuqan said. "Most importantly, the rest houses should complement the landscape," he said. He noted that each area in Jordan has its specific characteristics, noticeable in the older architecture; for example, the indigenous material to the Ghor is mud, the mountains, stone, Umm Qeis, black stone; Wadi Rum and Aqaba, sandstone; and Amman, limestone. "Complementary architecture is obviously more attractive; a nice, cozy rest house with a shade to enjoy the view presents a good image for Jordan. People who work in a pleasant building have a tendency to work better," said Mr. Tuqan.

Service training

This leads to another problem the tourism industry faces: underdeveloped service sector. Mr. Atalla asserted "employees are not ready to serve. A Jordanian is still not a man of service; he would rather be a small bureaucrat or in the army." He attributed the problem in part to insufficient training. "65 per cent of the labourers in the hotel business are foreigners, he said.

"Tourists want Jordanians to show them the country and culture," said Mr. Nazzari Dabbas, director of the hotel training college. Mr. Dabbas expressed the hope that in this college, the only one of its kind in Jordan, will promote the employment of more Jordanians in the hotel business in the next ten years.

To fulfill this goal, the college trains students in accommodation, food and beverage management, and as tourist guides. "The college concentrates on teaching students that they are the ambassadors inside their countries and on means to sell the country," he said.

Work of RJ

If Jordan is determined to become a major tourist spot and to improve on all levels, more advertising of the tourist sites nationally and internationally is

needed. Much progress has been made in this area due to the major role Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) has played in marketing the country and improving tourism in Jordan, said vice president of public relations, Mr. Munib Tuqan.

The King wanted RJ to be the Jordanian bridge to the world. Within this context RJ plays a major role by reaching 43 destinations in four continents with 96 offices from Los Angeles to Bangkok. This has put RJ in an excellent position to market Jordan to the world at large," said Mr. Tuqan.

Through RJ participation, Jordan has made its presence known abroad by bringing journalists and photographers to cover all aspects of Jordanian life, according to Mr. Tuqan. Unilaterally, or in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, RJ has joined in leading exhibitions in Western Europe and North America, and has promoted Jordan through pamphlets, leaflets, posters, postcards, and brochures. RJ also produces documentary films from 10 minutes to one hour to be used by area managers or during special functions. Leading specialists in the tourist field worldwide, in cooperation with airline companies and ministries of tourism, are invited by RJ to spend a couple of days on familiarisation trips, said Mr. Tuqan.

RJ has promoted the Royal Falcons, the only civilian aerobatic team in the world, in shows worldwide. The latest aerobatic show was in Indonesia, said Mr. Tuqan, and next year the team will participate in Le Bourget Air Show in France. With the help of RJ the Royal Folklore Troupe performs traditional dances and costumes around the world.

In the artistic field, RJ uses art gallery facilities to take occasional works of Jordanian artists and exhibits them in major cities worldwide, said Mr. Tuqan.

Mr. Dabbas made some suggestions on ways to market Jordan. He said that tourist attaché offices should be opened worldwide, travel agents and the hotel industry should assist the Ministry of Tourism in marketing the Kingdom, and studies of marketing especially in the Gulf, Europe, and the United States should take place.

There are several channels available to the government to enhance tourism in Jordan. Building the Kingdom into a major tourist spot in the Middle East will include: deciding on the type of tourism Jordan is to cater to and building accordingly; improving the rest houses; constructing non-profit projects; developing the service sector; and more advertising. Although the tourist industry has made great strides, the remaining problems need time and determination to be overcome.

Randa Habibi's Corner

Happy New Year

IT IS getting harder and harder every year to expect an end to all the wars in the world, to the killings and wanton violence and peace prevailing on the face of earth. If anything, there are more conflicts, wars and killings each year than the year before.

People no longer feel safe anywhere: be it an airplane, a restaurant, a disco or a supermarket. Bombs explode everywhere and flying shrapnel and bullets do not distinguish between innocents and culprits. People are held hostage and sometimes traded for weapons to wreak further havoc and kill hundreds and thousands.

Peace is becoming a hollow word. The message of Christmas and New Year is of love and peace but some take advantage of the message to mow down innocent children. In Lebanon, where fighting and killing have become the style of life, an Amal gunman disguised as Santa Claus shot down dozens of children who flocked to him hoping for a gift. Such an act only indicates the dark pit of the despicable urge for violence that the human being has fallen into.

Despite everything, human nature is such that the end of a year is always an auspicious occasion for all. People seek to forget their worries and dream for better days to come with the new year. The sufferings, the losses, the bad news and the foreboding feeling of disaster, all become part of the past. People say goodbye to the past year's bad memories and eagerly look forward to the New Year; perhaps this mood is the best part of new year celebration — the hopes it brings, the illusion of an end to suffering and pain and the firm conviction that a change in the figures that indicate the year would herald better days and happiness.

So, enjoy your New Year. Close your eyes at midnight on Wednesday and wish for a great 1987; who knows, all haunting thoughts might disappear and your wish might come true. Happy New Year folks.

Gunter Grass revisits Calcutta

By Peter Diemann

THE German writer and novelist Gunter Grass and his wife Ute plan to live in Calcutta for a year, close to the city's slums. Has he fled from Germany? Does he intend writing a book about Calcutta?

These questions are asked in Calcutta when there is mention of Grass's proposed twelve-month stay in the city on the Ganges.

Spokesmen from the West German consulate-general and the Max Muller Bhavan, as the Goethe Institutes are known in India, say: "Herr Grass does not want to be disturbed." They do not give his address.

Gunter Grass and wife Ute have for the time being moved out of Calcutta to a small house with garden, about 20 kilometres from the city to the south, in one of the less crowded Calcutta suburbs.

Here the upper classes live, but not in the style of maharajahs. For Grass and his wife it is not a flight into luxury.

They eat Indian food and live like Indians, with just a few extras that cost a lot or which are only available to diplomats. It seems to be what Gunter Grass is looking for.

He went to Calcutta from Bombay last August. Calcutta is unique in the world for its way of living and dying. But Grass is mainly interested in getting to know the people. He keeps his distance from fellow Germans living in Calcutta.

He goes to dinner with the consul-general, visits the head of the Max Muller Bhavan, a couple of times, and will probably play a few games of skat (a German card game) with Consul-General Soemksen and a few friends, but these are the only contacts he plans to have with his fellow countrymen in Calcutta.

Grass takes getting to know the city and its people seriously. He says that the Bengalis are "an unusual people quite unlike other Indians."

Every other day at least he goes with his wife into the city by a crowded suburban train, gets into a taxi and drives round a city district. He pushes his way with the rest through the streets, talks with Indian intellectuals, poets, politicians and businessmen in the coffee houses.

He told an Indian woman journalist what he had found out about the "special people of Calcutta."

He said: "They are good-natured but they get angry at the slightest provocation. Bengalis are real egotists. They are very proud of their rich culture."

The only complaint he has made so far about Bengali behaviour, true also for the rest of India, concerns his experience with public transport: "Why do people all try to get on and off a train at the same time?"

He said: "I have to push my wife in front of me into the compartment so as to be sure that we are both on the same train."

Why is Grass in Calcutta for the second time? He visited the city ten years ago. His friends say he is fleeing from German narrow-mindedness, the slanted view of his book *The Female Rat* and German politics.

Grass himself said: "I have never seen so many teeming millions of people. People with such a mixed culture. Poor, but intelligent people with a sense for art."

The city has had two Nobel prize winners. Mother Theresa in 1983 and the poet Rabindranath Tagore in 1913.

Grass has been reading 19th century Bengali literature in English translations. He said: "That is helping me to write a novel about an average inhabitant of Calcutta and the teeming masses." To write this book he wants to see and get to know Calcutta.

He testily told a young German at one of his readings in Bombay, who wanted to know about his accommodation in Calcutta, that it was not vital to live for a year in the slums to be able to describe them. "Do you want me to describe my bathroom?" he asked.

"It is not necessary that I should do so. You don't have to learn to be a hairdresser to say something about cutting hair."

He continued: "I shall not disregard the slums, but I don't see why I should live in one." He said that he and his wife would live in conditions that they could bear and which provided them with what they need.

His writing and politics follow him around even in India.

He has given two readings of his works so far. In one there was considerable discussion of his statement that: "The world nourishes the Apocalypse, not as we imagine it from the Bible, not as an act of God but man-made."

Grass says that the enormous advances made in electronics and computer technology has "hindered humanity from developing in new directions."

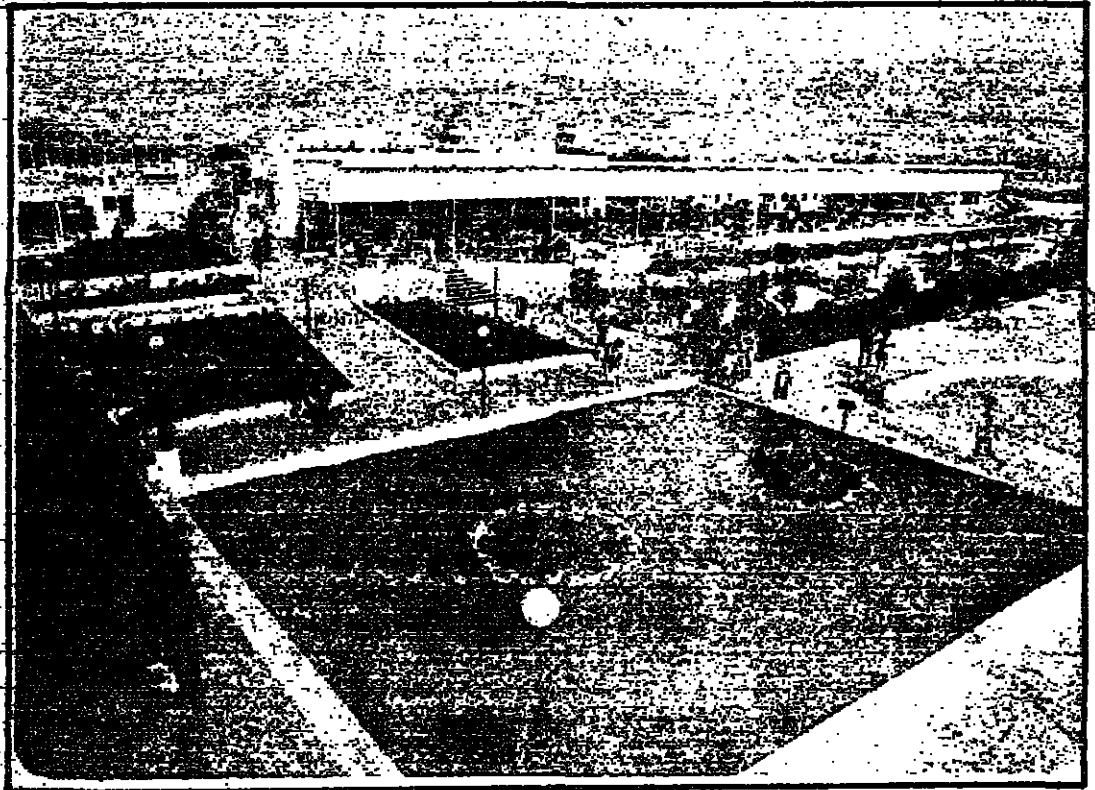
He said: "Snails move faster than people. Human beings don't move any more."

There are things in India that never change either, according to Grass. He warns of a new fascism we know in Europe. It will be something like racism, in the black-white terms that Reagan favours so much.

Grass has certainly also found during his year there that in Calcutta there is "an imitation of German society with its vulgar materialism and its emphasis on performance."

"Will Grass be a 'new Grass' when he returns to West Germany?"

— Die Welt, Bonn.



The resthouse on the Dead Sea shore

Vienna wakes up to the challenge of the future

The Austrian capital no longer wants to be remembered as the bleak city of the film "The Third Man." Patrick Blum outlines the mayor's ambitious plans at this turning point.

VIENNA is fighting for its survival as a living city. Faced with a declining and ageing population, the city authorities are looking at radical ideas to rejuvenate the Austrian capital and prevent it becoming merely a collection of monuments.

Once the administrative hub of an empire of 55 million people the capital's population has dropped by a quarter this century to around 1.5 million inhabitants and is expected to fall to under 1.3 million by the year 2000.

Helmut Zilk, Vienna's flamboyant and energetic socialist mayor, has no doubt that the city is at a turning point. "Vienna is in a period of transition and change. It is finally coming to grips with its past and turning to the future," he says.

Mr. Zilk admits that this is not easy for the Viennese, who found it especially difficult to adjust to the collapse of the empire. With about two million inhabitants at the turn of the century, Vienna was the world's fourth largest city, he says. After 1918 and the empire's demise it became an

unimportant city on Europe's fringes.

"By the end of the Second World War it was reduced to what you see in the film *The Third Man*," the film, which is regularly shown here, depicts the city shortly after the war as bleak and broken, where scarcity had encouraged a thriving and sinister black market under the indifferent eyes of soldiers from the four foreign occupying armies.

Vienna has since grown prosperous but many Austrians still hanker after the "good old days" of the monarchy. "In 1918, Vienna had wonderful palaces and churches but 85 per cent of homes were without running water. For the majority there was appalling housing with widespread diseases among children," Mr. Zilk says. Tuberculosis, caused by overcrowding, became known throughout Europe as "the Vienna disease."

Today, Mr. Zilk says, it is possible to make a realistic assessment of the city's past and plan for the future. "The city is waking up and we are facing new

challenges," he says.

These include making Vienna not only one of the most attractive cities in Europe — there is probably more renovation work going on in Vienna than in any other European capital — but also one of the cleanest and healthiest.

Certainly there has been a resurgence of interest in open air, sports and fitness activities, with a strong emphasis on a clean and natural environment.

The Viennese may complain about draughty streets but the wind which sweeps down from the Vienna woods is cleaner and purer than that over most European cities. They are occasionally accused of having an almost pathological obsession with the environment but their city has more parks and open spaces than most of the world's capitals.

Politicians also plan to build on the city's historical heritage and unique central European location to make it a dynamic centre of east-west contact. Since Roman times, Vienna has been a crossing point between the north-south Baltic to Adriatic route and the east-west route along the Danube.

Despite the ebb of détente, many Viennese politicians believe it is possible to give new impetus to relations between Vienna and

its Communist neighbours. It is at the heart of Mr. Zilk's vision for the city's future.

Several ideas are being considered. A wide-ranging public consultation exercise includes a competition on developing a vast area north of the Danube with new housing, shops, sports and recreational centres and an international railway station to handle high speed trains linking Western and Eastern Europe.

This area, on the bleak flood plains surrounding the river, has traditionally been isolated from the main life of the city, although it has been the focus of numerous efforts to redress the balance. Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the former Socialist chancellor, is said to have fought hard to ensure that a General Motors plant was located on this side of the Danube, both to provide a focus of activity and to underpin Western presence and interest in an area which was under Soviet occupation for 10 years.

A vast office complex which houses several U.N. organisations and a large modern conference centre were also built and a leisure park was developed on one of the river's islands.

Proposals will be assessed by an

international jury in March. The Vienna authorities will have final responsibility. Fritz Hofmann, who is responsible for planning at the town hall, says that a U.S. company has been asked to make cost assessments for various proposals, but that it will only be possible to make full estimates once projects are more clearly identified.

In any case it will be costly. A new railway station and tracks for high speed trains to Vienna may alone cost up to Sch30 billion (\$2.14 billion).

Financing will be shared by the city of Vienna, the federal government and state utilities companies, although some input from the private sector is likely. The high costs may dampen enthusiasm at a time when the government is seeking cuts in expenditure to reduce its budget deficit, but these projects would also provide fresh business for industry and new jobs.

Mr. Zilk would like to realise at least part of his vision of Vienna as a modern international city able to build on its past. "There is no point in dreaming of the monarchy. We must deal with today to do what is possible."

Recent visits to Prague and Budapest have convinced him that

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Australia wins Davis Cup with gritty match by Cash

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Pat Cash produced the best comeback of his career to defeat Mikael Pernfors in a five-set marathon Sunday and give Australia a memorable victory over defending champion Sweden in the Davis Cup tennis final at Kooyong.

Cash, 21, came from two sets down to defeat his gritty Swedish opponent 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 and wreck Sweden's hopes of winning the cup for a third straight year.

Captain Neale Fraser described Cash's performance as the greatest he had seen by an Aussie player in Davis Cup play.

Cash's win over French Open runner-up Pernfors enabled the Australians to repeat their 1983 Davis Cup final victory over Sweden at Kooyong and score their fourth victory under the captaincy of Fraser.

Cash, ranked 24th in the world, won all three of his matches in the final, beating Stefan Edberg in opening singles and then teaming with John Fitzgerald to defeat Edberg and Anders Jarryd in Saturday's doubles.

Edberg defeated Paul McNamee 10-8, 6-4 in Sunday's second reverse singles to trim Australia's winning margin to 3-2.

But the tie was already decided by then and the courageous athletic Cash had endeared himself to his hometown crowd with a determined comeback.

"That's the best comeback I've ever made," Cash said afterwards.

"He just played amazing tennis in the first two sets."

"I gutted out the match better than I've ever done before."

Pernfors, a former U.S. collegiate standout, stunned the sellout 11,000 crowd Sunday with his early play. He returned serve brilliantly and rifled a succession of passing shots past the in-rushing Cash. Pernfors was playing only the sixth match of his career on grass, but out-duelled Cash time and again.

But the Australian broke Pernfors' serve in the fourth game of the third set and gradually turned the tide. His aggressive serve-and-volley style put the pressure on Pernfors, who made an increasing number of mistakes as the match progressed.

It took Cash 3 hours 27 minutes to wear down his chunky and purposeful opponent.

"I didn't lose because I played badly," Pernfors said. "I lost because he played better than I did."

"The first two sets were some of the best I've ever played, but I suffered a bit of a let-down and he played much better."

Cash improved his Davis Cup

singles record to 15-5, while Pernfors suffered his first loss in three matches. His debut came against Czechoslovakia in the semi-finals.

Australia achieved its victory without a player ranked in the world top 20. All four members of the Swedish team were ranked higher than Cash, who has come back from a painful back injury.

Cash was the highest ranked of the home team, which also included McNamee (45th), John Fitzgerald (101st) and Peter McNamara (307th).

Australia scored its 26th Davis Cup triumph. Only the United States, with 28 wins, has a better record.

The crowd, volatile throughout, exploded with delight as Cash sealed Australia's triumph.

Swedish coach Hans Olsson, said he had thought his team would retain the cup when Pernfors raced to a 2-0 lead.

"I knew Stefan could win the last match and I thought we were going to win when Pernfors started so well," he said. "We were very close to winning, but close is not enough."

The victory ended a remarkable year for Cash, who conquered both the back injury and recovered from an appendectomy to improve his ranking from 418th to 24th.

"This is fantastic feeling," he said. "In a way, this is my greatest moment in tennis. We have beaten the world."

Everton closes gap by hammering Leicester

LONDON (AP) — Everton hammered Leicester City 5-1 Sunday to cut Arsenal's lead atop the English soccer league standings to four points.

Nottingham Forest squandered a chance of regaining third place when it was held 2-2 at home by Luton Town, while at the other end of the table, Charlton Athletic whipped Manchester City 5-0 to climb off the bottom.

Some 39,000 fans at Goodison Park saw Adrian Heath put Everton on the goal trail after 15 minutes. Paul Wilkinson added a second seven minutes later to give Everton a comfortable 2-0 half time lead, and two minutes after the interval, Leicester captain John O'Neill accidentally put the ball in his own net under pressure from Wilkinson.

Heath scored Everton's fourth in the 74th minute and although Steve Moran pulled a goal back for Leicester with ten minutes to go, Kevin Sheedy bagged a fifth for the rampant Merseysiders.

An injury time equaliser by long-serving captain Ian Bowyer salvaged a point for Forest after Luton led twice at the city ground.

Brian Stein's first for Luton, after 10 minutes, was cancelled out by Nigel Clough in the 73rd. Mike Newell regained the lead for the visitor with four minutes remaining but Bowyer's last-gasp strike denied Luton all three points.

Forest climbed one place to fourth in the standings while Luton moved up three places to eighth.

Charlton posted its first league victory in ten outings to demolish fellow struggler Manchester City. Colin Walsh scored Charlton's lone first half goal in the 26th minute, but after the break, the home side swept City aside with further strikes by Walsh, Jim Melrose, Peter Shirlife and George Shipley.

Charlton's victory lifted it five places, while Leicester slid to the bottom after its heavy defeat at Everton.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Algeria agrees to host Africa Cup

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has agreed to host the Africa Nations Football Cup in 1988, the ministry of youth and sports announced, according to the Algerian News Agency. APS. Algeria was asked to take over after Zambia decided it could not host the competition because of economic problems. Algeria had already been chosen to host the event in 1990.

Cable cars transporting skiers plunge

BRIANCON, France (R) — Thirty people were injured, six seriously, when 10 small cable cars carrying skiers from a car park to the ski runs plunged 12 metres (36 feet) onto cars below at the ski resort of Orres in the French Alps Saturday. The management of the resort said the accident was due to a cable breaking away from the pylon at the end of the line. The cause of the failure was not yet known. The injured were flown by helicopter to nearby hospitals.

Sydney yacht Ex-Tension takes lead

SYDNEY (R) — Sydney yacht Ex-Tension took the lead on corrected time in the Sydney-to-Hobart Yacht Race Saturday. Ex-Tension, skippered by Tony Dunn, took full advantage of the 15-20 knot southerly to overtake the overnight leader Drake's Prayer, which was forced to retire Friday night with tears to both mainsails. Bob Bell's Condor looks set to take her second line honours, leading by six nautical miles from Rod Muir's windward passage.

Mandlikova, Shriver top Australian field

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia and Pam Shriver of the United States head the entries for the \$100,000 Jason Women's Classic Tennis Tournament, which begins Monday at the Milton Courts. Top seeded Mandlikova and her compatriot Helena Sukova, ranked number three for this tournament, are seeded to play each other in the semi-finals with Shriver and Australia's Wendy Turnbull the top seeds in the other half of the 36-draw grass court event. The first leg of the 1987 Virginia Slims Series. The tournament is part of the lead-up to the Australian Open, to be held at Kooyong from January 12-25. Mandlikova, ranked fourth in the world, has a first round bye, as do all the top seeds. The other leading seeds are Australian Dianne Balestrat, South African Ros Fairbank, American Alycia Moulton and Canadian Helen Kolesi.

Stock wins slalom on Berlin 'rubble' mountain

BERLIN (AP) — Austria's Leonhard Stock won a World Cup slalom race in pouring rain Sunday on a 120-metre (396-foot) West Berlin "mountain" formed from leftover World War II bomb rubble.

Stock, the 1980 Olympic champion in the downhill, edged Yugoslavia's Bojan Krizaj to win the competition on Teufel Mountain, which had been blasted by snow-making machines to offset temperatures of 4 degrees C (41 degrees F).

Stock easily defeated Krizaj, who triumphed in the World Cup slalom in Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia on Dec. 20, in the second heat Sunday after beating him by just .005 seconds in the first.

Third in the two runs down the easy, 400-metre competition

slope was West Germany's Michael Eder.

West Germany's Markus Wasmeier, 23, third-ranked in the World Cup standings and the nation's top ski racer, was eliminated in the first heat.

"I was just too slow in the upper stretches. Artificial snow is the stickiest and most difficult surface for me," said Wasmeier.

Others eliminated in the first heat included Armin Bittner, a West German who was the surprise victor in the slalom at Hinterstoder, Austria, a week ago, and Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden, the 1980 Olympic champion in slalom and giant slalom.

The little slope had a vertical drop of 80 metres (264 feet). About 15,000 fans jammed either side of the course for the

first-ever World Cup race in this allied-administered enclave city.

Teufel Mountain originated from a huge heap of rubble from the World War II bombing of Berlin. The slope, lying in the Grunewald Forest section of West Berlin, has long been a popular winter recreation spot for Berliners.

Local ski club officials persuaded World Cup organisers to schedule the race here in connection with ceremonies marking the 750th anniversary of the city next year.

Only 21 of the top 32 top-ranked slalom competitors showed for the race, with Swiss superstar Pirmin Zurbriggen among those who stayed at home. Many competitors Sunday dismissed the race course as "fun," not up to World Cup standard.

A U.S. military radar station occupies the summit of Teufel Mountain.

England routs Australia, retains Ashes

MELBOURNE (R) — England retained the Ashes thanks to its quickest victory over Australia for 52 years after Allan Border's cricketers meekly surrendered in 281 minutes on the third day of the fourth test Sunday.

England's bowlers routed the home side for the second time in the match, dismissing Australia for 194 just after tea to clinch victory by an innings and 14 runs.

The touring side, who now leads 2-0 with only the final test in Sydney to play, scored 349 in its first innings in reply to Australia's 141.

The victory was England's third over Australia by an innings in the last six tests and was the first since the second test at Lord's in 1934 that Australia had capitulated inside three days.

Border was shellshocked after leading his side to its 14th successive game without victory. But he scotched fears that he would follow the example of his predecessor Kim Hughes and resign the captaincy.

"I'm numb, disappointed, but I must keep hanging in there. I am determined to see it out," Border said.

"I don't know where we can go from here," said Border who criticised the selectors for their decision to leave out Greg Ritchie in favour of reinforcing the bowling.

"Four specialist batsmen are not enough. I was keen for Ritchie to play, but the selectors had a



Mike Gatting... captained England to Ashes

good argument. I thought it was foolhardy to go in with four batsmen," Border said.

The Australian captain gave England credit. "It is as good an England side as I have played against — and Ian Botham wasn't even fully fit."

Border's England counterpart Mike Gatting agreed the Australian selectors had made a fatal error in fielding only four specialist batsmen.

"We don't bat Ian Botham until number six. You just can't go into a test with four batsmen," said Gatting as he drank celebratory champagne.

Australia had put too much reliance on what he called its "bits and pieces" players, Gatting added. "Only four front line batsmen, that really puts the pressure on. Border bats at four, he goes and it's on — a bowler in at

number five." Gatting said the difference between the two sides was the great start his openers had always given England and the spinning duo of John Emburey and Phil Edmonds.

He promised to tackle the Sydney test with the same serious intent as the previous tests. "We want to win in Sydney too and keep the ball rolling."

Gatting said Sunday was his greatest moment in cricket apart from the day he played his first test for England some 52 years ago. But he had a few words of comfort for Border.

"I know how he feels, a scapegoat," said Gatting. "But Allan Border is one of the best Australian players for a long long time. I went through a period against India and New Zealand recently and I know how he feels. But to lose the Ashes again must be even worse for him."

Needing 208 to make England bat again, Australia collapsed after the departure of Border, for 34, and opener Geoff Marsh.

Marsh was run out for 60 after a misunderstanding with Steve Waugh, and from 169, for five at tea the home side crashed to 194 all out. The last eight wickets fell for 81 runs, the last seven for 41.

Edmonds finished with three for 45 and Emburey two for 43 but it was seamer Gladstone Small, with five wickets in the first innings and two for 40 in the second, who was named man of the match.

Slick outfield, stone throwing mar Sri Lanka-India cricket

NAGPUR, India (R) — A stone-throwing crowd and protests by Sri Lankan players over a rain-drenched outfield marred the second day's play in the second cricket test against India Sunday.

Replying to Sri Lanka's first innings 204, India began steadily after the start of play was delayed 200 minutes, hitting 54 for one at the close.

Showers overnight left the outfield slushy, forcing the umpires to postpone the start until after lunch.

More than 20 groundsmen with buckets and sponges had cleared small pools of water on the outfield and sprayed dust on the affected areas.

But Sri Lankan fielders complained the outfield was still slippery, triggering arguments between captain Duleep Mendis and umpire P.D. Reporter.

Asantha Gurusingh refused to field on one part of the outfield while Sidath Wettimuny slipped up while chasing a ball on another part of the ground.

The constant interruptions irritated the crowd, who twice disrupted play by shouting and throwing small stones on to the ground, sending Ravi Ratnayake running for cover.

At this stage, police rushed in to the eastern stand swinging clubs as they pacified the crowd.

"The Sri Lankans are our guests. We must treat them well," the loudspeakers announced.

But even as the crowd began to calm down, play was called off with six overs still to be bowled because the Indian batsmen complained that shadows were falling on the wicket.

Overnight Indian opening batsmen Krishnamachari Srikanth and Raman Lamba started very cautiously, but Sri Lanka broke through when Srikanth was caught behind the wicket by De Alwis for four off a rising delivery from medium pacer Ramesh Ratnayake. Raman Lamba joined Mohinder Amarnath to continue the defensive game.

Play resumes on Tuesday following Monday's rest day.

Ireland's Coghlan injured in attack

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Eamonn Coghlan, the American-based world 5,000 metres track champion, said Sunday he could miss the entire U.S. indoor tour after being savaged by a dog while on a training run in his hometown.

The 33-year-old world record holder for the indoor mile, who is vacationing in his native country, suffered a broken hand and tissue damage to his calf and thigh after two men set their dog on him.

Coghlan, who needed an operation late Saturday to repair the wounds, said: "I won't know the extent of the damage for at least 24 hours. But there is severe tissue damage."

"If I miss ten days training it will mean an end to the U.S. indoor tour," said Coghlan, who won the world 5,000 metres title in Helsinki in 1983 and is the only man to break 3 minutes 50 seconds for the indoor mile.

Coghlan said he was savaged by a black and white terrier when he asked two teenagers to stop shouting foul language at a woman and her child.

Brazilian tries for St. Silvester win

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian track star Jose Joao Da Silva, last year's winner of the St. Silvester foot race, feels he has a better than average chance of winning it again this year.

"For several months I have done nothing else other than train for the St. Silvester race. I am both physically and emotionally prepared to compete against other excellent athletes and although I cannot categorically say I'll win, I think I have an excellent chance of being the first to cross the finish line," Da Silva said by telephone.

If he wins, it will be his third St. Silvester victory. He also won it in 1980.

For the past four months he has been training by running up and down the hills of Campos Do Jordao, a mountain resort about 190 kilometres northeast of Sao Paulo.

The irregular terrain of Campos Do Jordao is the ideal training ground for Sao Silvester," Da Silva said.

The race's course is a series of uphill, downhill and flat stretches along the wide skyscraper-lined avenues and down the narrow and winding streets of downtown Sao Paulo, Brazil's industrial and financial centre.

Some 8,000 men and women — from Brazil and more than 20 other nations — will run in the 62nd St. Silvester race, a 12.6-kilometre (7.8-mile) competition that starts Dec. 31 at 11:05 p.m. local time (01:05 GMT) and ends a few minutes before midnight.

For more than half a century, the St. Silvester race has helped residents of South America's largest city ring in the new year.

The winner is expected to cross the finish line between 36 and 38 minutes after the starting gun goes off.

Last year, Da Silva won the race in 36 minutes 48.96 seconds and this year I am certain I will improve my performance."

According to Julio Deodoro, one of the chief organisers of the event, some 500 foreign athletes have signed up for this year's race. Of this total, only 80 are what he called "elite" runners. The rest are so-called "tourist athletes" who run for the fun of it without any real chances of winning.

This year, athletes from Italy, the United States, Australia, Ireland, Portugal, England, Tanzania, Kenya, Mexico, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, Belgium,

Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, France, Curacao, West Germany, Puerto Rico, New Zealand and Switzerland will compete in the New Year's eve race.

Da Silva who specialises in races of 5,000 and 10,000 metres, said his toughest competitors this year will be Italy's Gelindo Bordin, Bill Rodgers of the United States, Sam Nkanga of Kenya and Tanzania's Zackarie Barie.

Asked about Colombia's Victor Mora, Da Silva said "he is always a favourite to win a St. Silvester race but, because of his age I am not so sure he has much of a chance of winning."

Mora, 43, will try to win an unprecedented fifth St. Silvester victory. He won in 1972, 1973, 1975 and 1981. The only other male athlete has won as many times was Gaston Roelants of Belgium who came in first in 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968.

This year, Roelants is expected to return to the St. Silvester race as a trainer rather than a runner. He is coaching his compatriot Fred Van Der Vennet.

The big favourite among the women athletes is Portugal's Rosa Mota, who will be going for her sixth consecutive win.

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Performances 12:15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:45

China arrests workers involved in student unrest

SHANGHAI (Agencies) — Authorities appear to be cracking down on some of those involved in week-long student unrest in many Chinese cities, but so far those arrested seem to be workers not students.

Public security sources in Shanghai, where the "protests for democracy" reached their climax last weekend, said officials were looking at videotapes and photographs to determine whether anyone, including student activists, had broken the law during scuffles with police.

They said the government apparently wanted to defuse tension and was unlikely to announce massive arrests at present.

But police said three youths had been detained with the help of videotapes, bringing to six the published number of arrests in cities where protests erupted.

The latest person arrested was identified as Zhang Yi and described as a worker with a record of theft and hooliganism. He was charged with swindling money from sympathetic students and bystanders, saying the money would be used to buy loud-hailers and print pamphlets.

Local newspapers said he was

also accused of spreading false rumours and disguising himself as a student leader when about 10,000 students demonstrated in peoples square last Sunday.

Two other workers were charged in Shanghai last Wednesday with disrupting public order and attempted arson.

State-run Peking Radio Sunday said three workers had been arrested in Nanjing for insulting women and causing disturbances when thousands of students took to the streets during the week.

The official People's Daily said some workers in Nanjing had mingled with a crowd of students in the main city square, smashing cars, setting fire to straw and disrupting traffic.

The paper said several "reactionaries" had joined the students to promote anarchy and create trouble under the banner of democracy and that protesters had broken into the People's Congress building on Tuesday night.

Students and teachers in Peking

said that even if no students were arrested, their future would be jeopardised if they were involved in the disturbances.

"The students who took part are very brave. Of course, their future will be affected," a lecturer at Peking Science and Engineering University said.

A student at Peking's Qinghua University, from where 3,000 students had marched last Tuesday, said: "The leaders know who all the ringleaders are because the protests were heavily infiltrated. They will be punished in their job allocation."

"You only have to say that a person was involved in a protest and a work unit will not take him. In the end, no unit will, so he will be posted to the countryside or some remote area," the student told Reuters.

Hong Kong's pro-Peking Wen Wei Pao said the government has formed a working group, headed by senior State Education Commission official He Dongchang, to look into the student unrest.

It said the government fully understood what it described as the high spirits shown by the students.

Rebels ask Sri Lanka to free 3,000 Tamils

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan rebels said Sunday they had demanded the release of about 3,000 Tamils detained without trial as a precondition for direct negotiations to end their three-year-old separatist war.

Kanagaratnam, alias Raheem, deputy leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), told Reuters by telephone Saturday night that he and other rebel leaders laid down the condition at a meeting with a goodwill mission led by parliament member Vincent Perera.

The talks were held Saturday for about two hours at Kankesanur in the northern province of Jaffna.

"We are able to understand each other's problems and had some frank talks. This was a talk of goodwill," Raheem said, adding the LTTE would not consider this as direct talks.

"We told them that only after the government has released the estimated 3,000 innocent Tamils detained in jails and army camps would we hold direct negotiations with the government."

He said the prisoners were being held under the prevention of terrorism act which allows detention without trial up to 18 months.

India has been mediating between Colombo and the rebels whose leaders are based in Madras, capital of India's Tamil Nadu state where some 50 million ethnic Tamils live.

The latest talks with Indian envoys ended in deadlock last week over Sri Lanka's fresh suggestion to set up three provincial councils for Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims in the eastern province.

Raheem said the LTTE told Perera that India's mediation should continue in any peace negotiations. But Perera did not convey any government precondition for holding direct talks with the rebels, he added.

"We discussed all the problems facing the Tamils in the northern and eastern provinces and we told them that we will never accept

these provincial councils," Raheem said.

Autonomous provincial councils are the key to President Junius Jayewardene's political solution to end the conflict, which has claimed 4,500 lives since communal riots swept the island in 1983.

Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, the LTTE commander in the island, told reporters Perera was told that his group would stick to its demand for an independent homeland for Tamils.

"We are in favour of direct talks but any settlement should be reached with India's mediatory efforts and our high command in Madras will take any decision in this regard," Kittu said.

A spokesman for the LTTE quoted by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency in Madras Saturday night said the LTTE would continue to support India's genuine effort to find a political solution.

The spokesman, S. Subramanian, told PTI that reports that his group was ready to hold direct talks with Colombo on ending the three-year Tamil struggle for a separate homeland were part of a disinformation campaign by the Sri Lanka government.

The spokesman said goodwill missions undertaken by Buddhist monks, journalists and politicians based in Colombo should be seen as efforts to promote better understanding between the Tamil minority and not as direct negotiations for a political solution.

Also in Madras, 50 leaders of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), an umbrella group for the separatists, Saturday began a fast to death to press for the release of 108 TELO members alleged to have been arrested by local police during a crackdown last week.

A police spokesman told PTI most of the TELO members had now been released, although some might still be under questioning over recent bomb blasts in Tamil Nadu.

Pro-Marcos group urges vote against constitution

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — A right-wing motorcade wound through Manila Sunday urging a "no" vote in next year's referendum on a new constitution, whose approval has been described as a vote of confidence for President Corazon Aquino.

Mrs. Aquino, meanwhile, said force was the "last resort" in resolving the conflict with Communist rebels, and urged her countrymen to change their ways to stamp out corruption.

The motorcade, which included buses, cars and motorcycles, was organised by supporters of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos. Speakers used loudspeakers to urge people to oppose the constitution, drafted by a commission appointed by Mrs. Aquino, in the Feb. 2 plebiscite.

Both Marcos loyalists and the country's most militant left-wing Labour federation, the May 1st Movement, have come out against the constitution.

The May 1st Movement, in a resolution approved by its congress on Dec. 21, called the document "pro-imperialist." Right-wingers oppose the document because it confers on Mrs. Aquino a six-year term without the new elections sought by Marcos loyalists.

Presidential palace officials have described the plebiscite as a "vote of confidence" in the Aquino administration and have forecast resounding approval.

Mrs. Aquino made her remarks to a congress of 3,000 Filipino family members. The country's most influential Roman Catholic leader last week urged her to take stronger steps to end the rampant corruption in Philippine society.

In her remarks, Mrs. Aquino said the February overthrow of President Marcos showed that "even the most irreconcilable differences between tyranny and freedom can be bridged by comparison and brotherhood."

She said the same spirit could be applied to settling the nearly 18-year-long Communist rebellion. The two sides launched a 60-day ceasefire on Dec. 10 and are to begin substantive talks next month on ending the rebellion.

The talks are expected to be difficult because of wide differences between the government and the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF), which has called among other things for the removal of U.S. military bases.

"Only as a last resort, and only to defend the ways and values of peace and democracy should we resort to force," Mrs. Aquino said.

She said the country needed an "uncompromising commitment to truth, personal honesty and integrity" if it were to prosper and develop.

"Without these values, we build our future as the previous regime did — on sand," she added.

Guns used as bank collaterals

Communist rebels hoping for a new life may start their own businesses using their guns as collateral for bank loans, the Philippine News Agency has reported.

Under the scheme, apparently aimed at luring guerrillas to the government fold following the signing of a ceasefire agreement, a rebel may borrow up to 15,000 pesos (\$700) for every gun deposited with the military, PNA said.



Corazon Aquino

Aquino named Time Woman of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino, named Saturday as Time magazine's Woman of the Year for 1986, said her most important achievement to date has been restoring her people's belief in their government.

But she added, "I don't want to say that this is my achievement. It is the Filipino people together who were able to believe in themselves because of what they were able to do in the election and then in the revolution."

"Because of this belief in each other they were now able to look up to their leaders and follow their leaders," she said.

While her country has not yet achieved unity, she said she is confident "we are working toward that end with the coming plebiscite on the constitution."

Mrs. Aquino, who succeeded Ferdinand Marcos as president in February, is the third woman to occupy the magazine's cover alone as person of the year. The others were Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 and in 1936, Wallis Simpson, the late American divorcee whom King Edward married after abdicating his throne.

Marcos' 20-year rule ended on Feb. 26 when he fled the country after a popular uprising in which hundreds of thousands of Filipinos surrounded rebel military bases in support of Mrs. Aquino, who had been defeated by Marcos in an election marked by widespread fraud.

The magazine said Mrs. Aquino was chosen because she "managed to lead a revolt and rule a republic without ever relinquishing her buoyant calm or her gift for making politics and humanity companionable."

During an hour-long interview, Mrs. Aquino's eyes filled with tears when she spoke about her obligations to her country and her memories of her husband, slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino, the magazine reported.

It was during her husband's incarceration that she really began to want to help others, she recalled.

All of a sudden, with my husband in prison, he was suffering. I was suffering. Yet we knew that others were worse off. We didn't have to worry about where our next meal was coming from or whether our children could go to school," she said. "So then, I guess, I started to worry about other people. I guess I identified myself with the victims of Marcos' injustice."

When asked if she would run again in six years, Mrs. Aquino laughingly said, "I think I was needed just for the transition, when people had to find somebody they could believe in, someone not out of the traditional political mould."

In six years, she added, "there will be many qualified people, and I will have earned a well-deserved rest."

Time said that other people it considered for the cover of its year-end issue included Marine Lt.-Col. Oliver North because of his role in the Iran-Contra arms deal, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as the one likely to lead his country into the next millennium.

Sakharov will not lead Soviet dissident movement

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov was quoted Sunday as saying he would continue to push for freedom for political prisoners but would not serve as a leader of the Soviet human rights movement.

In an interview given to four American Publications, including the New York Times, the 65-year-old Sakharov said poor health and a desire to return to his research would constrain his activism.

He also used the interview to publicise the plight of nine jailed dissidents and call for their release.

Sakharov returned to Moscow Tuesday after seven years of internal exile in the closed city of Gorky for criticising official Soviet policies, including the government's human rights

6 Killed in Japanese train accident

TOKYO (AP) — Six train cars were toppled by a gust of wind and plunged 41 metres from a bridge onto a house and factory Sunday, killing six people and seriously injuring six others in south western Japan, police said.

The cars fell shortly after the special excursion train had left off 180 passengers at a nearby station. It was preparing to turn around to pick them up for the return trip when it tumbled off the bridge. Japan National Railways officials said.

A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, quoted Yuji Koniya, 39, the motorman, as saying his diesel engine car

stopped suddenly and when he looked back, he saw no train cars.

The 310-metre-long bridge links two hills near Hamasaka, on the Japan Sea coast 480 kilometres west of Tokyo.

An unidentified man at the scene told the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) that "like match boxes, the train cars fell one after another, starting with the last car."

The police official said five of the dead and three of the injured were in a crab processing plant under the bridge that has destroyed in the accident.

Four crewmen were in cars that fell off the bridge, the official said.

Death toll 7 in German hotel blast

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, West Germany (AP)

Authorities suspended their search early Sunday for victims of a gas explosion that blew up part of a resort hotel in the Bavarian Alps, killing seven people and injuring more than 20.

The northern wing of the Riessensee Hotel, which housed the resort's recreation centre, was "literally blown into the air" by the force of Saturday's blast, said Bavarian state police spokesman Max Koegl.

The hotel was fully booked with 300 guests, but many were outside skiing when the explosion occurred, local television stations reported.

The dead included four men and three women, said a town spokesman who asked not to be

identified. All but one were citizens. The seventh victim, a man, had not been identified early Sunday, he said.

He said the search through the rubble for further victims was called off before dawn because all hotel guests and employees had been accounted for.

The spokesman said 16 injured hotel guests were in local hospitals, including four in serious condition early Sunday. Police said an additional 10 people were treated and released from local hospitals, but the spokesman said the total number of injuries was uncertain.

A faulty natural gas pipeline in the hotel exploded at 4:07 p.m. (15:07 GMT) and touched off a blaze which firefighters brought

under control before dawn. Koegl said.

The blast devastated the Riessensee's pool area and fitness centre and caused serious damage to other sections of the hotel.

Koegl said. He said the rest of the complex escaped the explosion largely unscathed.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen was the site of the 1936 Winter Olympics and is one of the best known Alpine ski resorts in Europe.

The Riessensee is about 2 kilometres south of the centre of town in a remote area reached by using a small country road.

The town of 27,500 people is 95 kilometres south west of Munich and is nearer the 2,963-metre (9,777-foot) Zugspitze, the nation's highest mountain.

Pravda attacks nationalism in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda called Sunday for greater efforts to stamp out nationalism in the Soviet Union, saying that it had no role to play in Marxist theory.

In an article before the 64th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Union on Dec. 30, Pravda said local concerns in the country's 15 national republics and 38 autonomous republics should not come before state interests.

The article made no reference to nationalist-inspired riots which broke out in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan on Dec. 17, but it echoed calls in the Soviet press for Kazakh officials to emphasise the spread of "internationalist" ideals.

Several hundred students rampaged in the streets of Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, after an ethnic Russian, Gennady Kolbin, replaced the republic's long-serving Communist Party leader Dinmukhamed Kunayev, a Kazakh by nationality.

"We must resolutely resist any attempts to put local interests before those of the state," Pravda said.

"Marxism and nationalism are irreconcilable... Marxism replaces nationalism with internationalism."

It called for greater integration of people from different nationalities and underscored the importance of the selection and training of personnel.

"Practice has shown the vital need to promote people of all nationalities to leadership posts, and to regularly exchange personnel and experienced workers among the republics, regions, centres and towns of the country," Pravda said.

It added that nationalism was not just a thing of the past and had still not been eradicated in the Soviet Union.

Excessive nationalism and parochialism could lead to protection and favouritism, Pravda said, adding: "We have a task of everlasting importance to fight signs of nationalism and chauvinism."

Pretoria planning to build airstrip 'for nuclear use'

LONDON (R) — South Africa has decided to build an airstrip on Marion Island in the Antarctic under a plan possibly designed to prepare the site for testing nuclear missiles, the Observer newspaper said Sunday.

The Sunday newspaper said in an early edition that the proposed \$4 million (\$6 million) runway would be capable of handling C-130 Hercules transport planes and was likely to provoke international controversy among both anti-apartheid campaigners and environmentalists.

South Africa says it needs the airstrip to serve a 24-man scientific station based on Marion Island, according to the Observer. Marion Island is situated 2,000 kilometres south east of Cape Town. South Africa took possession of the island in 1947.

The newspaper said experts doubted that the runway would be for civil purposes.

"South Africa probably exploded a nuclear test device in the area in 1979 and the airstrip is very likely to have military implications," the Observer quoted British nuclear expert Frank Barnaby as saying.

It said Mr. Barnaby, former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, believed that the island could provide a site for testing missiles which were being developed for conventional and probably also nuclear warheads.

"South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs, decided

earlier this month to proceed with the airstrip. They told the scientists that this would facilitate evacuation in the event of a medical emergency, provide a landing site for search and rescue aircraft, ease provisioning of the weather station and improve fishery protection.

Marion Island scientists were surprised by these explanations. They believe medical cover could be improved more cheaply by building an operating theatre and employing a doctor to live at the base. There is no commercial flying in the area, and hence no need for rescue operations," the newspaper said.

Apart from the scientific base, South Africa maintains a meteorological station on the remote island which is presently served twice a year by the 5,000-ton supply ship Agulhas.

It said that Israeli and South African military officers had visited the island over the past two years.

Speculation about joint South African-Israeli nuclear cooperation has increased recently following revelations by Mordchai Vanunu, an Israeli nuclear technician who appeared in court in Jerusalem a week ago after vanishing in London.

Vanunu told a British newspaper that Israeli nuclear scientists made regular visits to South Africa.

South Africa has denied having nuclear weapons.

Soviets express optimism on world peace prospects

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday it was more optimistic about prospects for world peace now than it had been at the start of this year.

In an article reviewing the International Year of Peace, Pravda said the state of affairs in the world was explosive and caused concern, and accused the United States of repeatedly blocking disarmament proposals.

But it said: "Nevertheless, we can look on the world situation with more optimism than at the start of 1986."

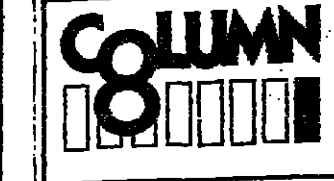
"The International Year of Peace showed that people were not only concerned about developments in world affairs, but that they were also full of resolve to turn them in the direction of creating a nuclear-free world."

Pravda said the October summit in Reykjavik between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan had shown there were real prospects of avoiding a nuclear catastrophe.

But it added: "Nineteen-eighty-six was the year where Washington obstructed any step aimed at nuclear disarmament, no matter who made the initiative."

The Soviet Union has said efforts to conclude agreements at Reykjavik broke down over plans by Mr. Reagan to develop a space-based defence system known as "Star Wars."

Pravda welcomed the signing by 13 nations this month of a treaty banning nuclear weapon testing in the South Pacific, and called for a halt to such tests in other regions.



6 blind Lebanese get corneas for Christmas

BEIRUT (R) — Six blind Lebanese recovered their sight after receiving cornea transplants as Christmas gifts, the Lebanese eye bank said. A 35-year-old man from Ain Unab, south east of Beirut, and a 26-year-old woman from Baalbeck each received one of two eyes bequeathed by a Lebanese widow. Donations from a U.S. eye bank allowed two women from west Beirut and two men from the northern port of Tripoli to have similar transplants of one eye each.

Lebanese journalist arrested in Cyprus with heroin

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — A 62-year-old Lebanese was arrested at Larnaca port after customs officers found one kilogramme of heroin in his suitcase, Cypriot police said. They said Majid Edmond Aoun, identified on his passport as a journalist, arrived on a passenger ferry from the Lebanese port of Jounieh holding an air ticket for London and United States.

China executes swindler

PEKING (R) — A convicted swindler who headed a gang involved in smuggling, illegal speculation and bribery was executed after his appeal was turned down by the Supreme People's Court, the New China News Agency said. It said police rounded up Du Guozhen and his gang 18 months ago in south China's Fujian province. The gang's offences included smuggling foreign currency and canned mushrooms to Hong Kong, bribing local government officials and illegally trading in automobiles, television sets, watches and motorcycles. They also got two loans totalling \$3 million from local banks with the help of a government official. Du, aged 54, a former clerk, registered a non-existent investment company and fooled many business enterprises in the provincial capital of Fuzhou by claiming he had important connections in Taiwan and Hong Kong, the news agency said.

Obscene telephone message investigated

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Technicians are trying to learn how consumers who called a toll-free line for clues to solve the puzzle Rubik's Magic got a message that used obscene language and told the callers to go away. Matchbox Toys, which operated the hot line, issued an apology to customers, calling the message "the product of a sick mind." American Telephone and Telegraph Co. disconnected the national toll-free number after the Dayton Daily News and Journal Herald reported that a 14-year-old called the number on Thursday and got an earful. "She just stood there in shock," said Kathy Price, the girl's aunt. "She handed me the phone. She said, 'this man is cussing.'" Matchbox and AT & T said they did not know how the obscene message replaced the legitimate one, but each company said the change could not have been made on its premises.

Thieves fool police, steal \$1m in jewelry

MIAMI (AP) — Thieves hauled \$1 million worth of jewelry from a store vault by setting off a burglar alarm then waiting for police to leave. "We figure that they were laying back somewhere close by, watching and waiting for the cops to leave," Metro-Dade detective Ed Tasker said. The thieves even stole a set of luggage to carry the diamonds, gold watches, earrings, chains and lesser-priced jewelry from Luria's catalog showroom at a shopping mall in south Dade county, police said. Officers checked the store when the alarm sounded early Thursday morning, but Tasker said neither police nor the mall guards found anyone in the store or anything out of the ordinary. However, investigators found Friday morning that the alarm's wires had been cut in back of the store. The thieves had pried open the store's front door and cut into the safe with acetylene torches. Police found three brief bags loaded with watches and other jewelry by the back door. Tasker said: "They were either spotted and got scared or couldn't carry everything away," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHAI SHARIF
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RENDER UNTO CAESAR

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 752
♥ 984
♦ 97
♣ K86

WEST EAST
♠ KJ10 ♠ 8
♥ QJ105 ♥ K7632
♦ J1083 ♦ KQ64
♣ J2 ♣ Q104

SOUTH
♠ AQ864
♥ Void
♦ A63
♣ A8753

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

You don't have to be a mathematical genius to be a good bridge player. But a knowledge of the basic probabilities is essential to success. Study this hand.

There is considerable difference of opinion about whether South should open the bidding with one club or one spade with five cards in each black suit. Regardless of which he chooses, his side should reach a contract of four spades in comfort.

West led the queen of hearts, taken by dummy's ace as declarer stuffed a diamond. If declarer had to lose only one trump, he could af-

ford to lose two tricks in the minors; if he had two trump losers, he could not give up more than one trick in the minors. How would you play the hand?

Since he had escaped a diamond lead, declarer realized that, if clubs broke 3-2 (a 68 percent chance), he could afford to ignore the spade finesse, which offered only a 50 percent chance of success. He could afford to concede two trump tricks since his diamond loser would go away on a good club.

At trick two declarer led a club to the ace and returned the suit to the king. When both defenders followed, the contract was laydown as long as trumps were no worse than 3-1. South simply led a trump to the ace and, when neither defender showed out, he abandoned spades in order to concede a club trick to the opponents.

Now East shifted to a diamond, but it was too late. Declarer won and led a club, discarding a diamond from the table. Whether or not West ruffed was immaterial—the defenders could score only two trump tricks in addition to the club.

Note that declarer would have been defeated had he tried the trump finesse at trick two. West was not shifted to a diamond, and declarer must concede a trick in each minor as well as two spades.